

Dudley

CHRONICLE



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POLICE MUST GET PRIORITIES RIGHT

Report by Lee Watton

WEST Midlands Police needs to get its priorities right – that was the view of an MP after plans were revealed to close five police stations across Dudley borough.

Bases in Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Netherton and Kingswinford are all earmarked for closure under proposed budget cuts.

Two MPs have hit out against the bombshell, saying they will fight to save their stations.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris has launched a petition to fight the closure of Halesowen Police Station.

"West Midlands Police needs to get its priorities right," said the Conservative MP. "The proposals do not make sense and I will be fighting them tooth and nail."

His petition is online and a paper version will be available at his constituency office.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has already campaigned against the closure of the front desk at Dudley's main police station.

The Labour MP said: "We all know savings have to be made but these closures are a direct result of the Government's decision to hand West Midlands Police disproportionate cuts — that are twice as deep as places like Surrey."

"We fought hard when they were closing the front desk to the public at Dudley earlier this year, presenting a petition signed by 2,200 local people to Parliament, and taking our case to the policing minister, the chief constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner."

Push

"It's now more important than ever for local people to add their name to our petition so we can push the Government, Dudley Council and West Midlands Police to find a way of keeping police based in the town."

Chairman of West Midlands Police Federation Tom Cuddeford said: "These closures are a direct result of the Government's cuts. We appreciate the difficult situation the force is in, it needs to balance the books due to pressures of the ongoing budget cuts."

"While these offices many not be open to the public, officers work from them and host meetings there. The closures will take officers further away from the communities they serve."

But Stourbridge MP Margot James said protecting the jobs of police officers was most important as she revealed she would not be opposing a move to shut the town's police station.

Miss James said: "I am not going to oppose the move but that doesn't mean to say I'm not concerned. I think it's important the police have a presence in Stourbridge."

"I would be interested to see alternative plans. I don't think it's going to close for a couple of years and if a suitable premises can be established in Stourbridge that would be ideal."

MAZDA'S RESIDENT MOGGY RESCUED FROM ENGINE



Gail Dunn of Lower Gornal with Lucky the kitten that hid in the engine of her husband's car as he travelled some 150 miles

ANIMAL lover Michael Dunn was confused when he heard what sounded like a meowing sound coming from his car.

His Mazda MX5 was stripped down and investigated by mechanics, yet there was still no sign of a cat that could be making the sound.

But then on Wednesday morning last week, having been kept awake the night before by a cat's squeals, he opened up his bonnet and there was a seven-week-old kitten.

But still the search was not over as the frightened feline darted back below the engine.

Another mechanic was called and eventually the cat was rescued, having survived a week living in the car's engine.

Mr Dunn, an engineer from Lower Gornal, had first suspected he had a moggy in his motor seven days earlier when a family of cats had run out in front of his car in Ham Lane, Kingswinford, and then kittens ran underneath the car.

He said: "A cat and two kittens ran out in front of the car. I stopped to let them cross the road. We found the other kitten."

"We stripped the car's filters off and

everything. But then when I was driving I could hear a cat meowing and when I was in bed I could hear it and thought it was coming from my car. Everyone said I was imagining things but my neighbour said he could hear it too."

Having been eventually tracked down, the kitten – which has been christened Lucky – is now living with Mr Dunn and his wife Gail at their home in Orchard Road.

The 44-year-old father-of-four believes he drove around 150 miles with Lucky under the bonnet.

TRAFFIC

Lower speed limit for rat-run rejected

A PROPOSED 20mph speed limit on a 'rat-run' road has been rejected by council officers.

Kings Road in Sedgley is plagued by traffic problems, according to Sedgley UKIP councillor and MEP Bill Etheridge.

He put forward plans for a 20mph speed restriction and a 7.5-ton weight limit after carrying out a survey of residents.

Dudley Council has agreed to undertake a traffic survey to assess the benefit of the weight restriction but has ruled out reducing the speed limit.

CHARITIES

Marathon mayor plans heroic effort

THE Mayor of Dudley will be pounding the streets in a charity half-marathon dressed as Black Country Mon.

Councillor Steve Walther will don the tights and cape as the popular local hero for the Great Birmingham Run on October 18. He will be joined by a team of runners, also dressed as Black Country Mon, for the 13-mile course in aid of his five charities.

People wanting to sponsor him can via mydonate.bt.com/charities/mayorofdudleyscharities

RETAIL

Morrisons shelve new supermarket

MORRISONS has shelved plans to build a new supermarket in Kingswinford, which would have created 300 jobs.

The supermarket giant had intended to demolish its existing store and build a replacement next door. But plans for the store in Stallings Lane have now been put on hold, the supermarket firm confirmed.

The decision comes just weeks after Morrisons announced two stores in Sandwell were among 11 earmarked for closure after revealing a slump in profits.

Morrisons was originally given permission to replace its existing store in Kingswinford in 2013.

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RACE TO SAVE THE HEATHENS



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New homes plan for health centre site

MORE than 100 homes will be built on the derelict site of a former health centre in Wordsley, under new plans.

NHS Property Services has submitted an application for 128 homes on the empty Ridge Hill Hospital site – eight years after homes were first mooted.

Most of the current buildings on the site, including the Keeling Centre and Shouters House, which are currently empty, would be demolished as part of the proposals. But the existing Ridge Hill Centre LIFT building, Pens Meadow School and bungalows and residential accommodation for assisted living would be retained.

Councillor Derrick Hemingsley said: "I think this is excellent news. We've been waiting for something to happen here for a long time. The grounds have been left as a sort of wilderness. This application is positive news for the area."

"My only concern is the impact on the highways network around that area. I think this needs to be looked at by the developer. But overall I am supportive."

Plans for homes to be built at the site were first lodged back in 2007 but did not come to fruition. In 2011, plans were backed by Dudley planners for 144 homes, relying on improvements to the junction of Brierley Hill Road and widening of the ex-

isting Ridge Hill access road. But this fell through.

The application states: "In its current form the site does not contribute to the local area, landscape or open space network."

"The proposed development will re-establish an active use of the site and a new community to benefit from existing open space, which will contribute towards local provision and be better used by local residents."

When the plans were initially unveiled, NHS Property Services spokesman Jeremy Peters said: "Disposing of property that is no longer required by NHS commissioners enables reinvestment in improved NHS services."

Agency bill for borough schools is nearly £5m

ALMOST £5 million was spent on agency staff at schools across Dudley in a year, figures reveal.

Schools forked out thousands of pounds on providing cover during 2014/15. Casual workers were brought into to cover sickness absences and maternity leave.

The figures, revealed under the Freedom of Information Act, did not include academics, which are run independently, but related to primary and secondary schools, special schools and nurseries.

Teaching cover cost £3.8m, while over a million spent on support staff. Expenditure can also cover full-time teachers covering other lessons or weekends.

Thorns Community College in Brierley Hill spent most on agency staff during the period, paying out £336,000. This was followed by the Priory Primary School which spent £193,000.

Other big spenders were the Pens Meadow Special School in Stourbridge, which spent £172,000, the Brier Special School in Kingswinford, which paid out £154,000, Dudley's Hillcrest Secondary School, which spent £132,000, and Colley Lane Primary School in Halesowen, £118,000. Old Park Special School in Brierley Hill spent £232,000 on other support staff, while the Coseley School paid £135,000.

Councillor Ian Cooper, boss of children's services, said: "School governors and head teachers manage their own budgets and make financial decisions in the best interests of pupils and the whole of the school."

Cruel yobs kick a cat to death

A CAT has died after it was kicked like a football by a group of cruel yobs in Coseley.

Three hooded youngsters – thought to be aged between 13 and 15 – carried out the attack while laughing at the helpless black feline in Ivyhouse Lane's junction with Mount Pleasant Street. A passer-by intervened and the yobs ran off.

The male cat was taken to a vet following the attack at 10.30pm on September 25, but he died from internal injuries the following day.

The RSPCA is now appealing for information and hoping to trace the culprits. Vicki Taylor, of the RSPCA, said: "This is a horrific case of animal cruelty and the cat would have suffered hugely."

Contact the RSPCA in confidence on 0300 123 8018.

Chance to meet the police at surgery

A POLICE surgery will take place at Netherton Park later this month. On October 28 officers will be on hand in the Healthy Hub building at the park off Greaves Road from 4pm. A second surgery is on November 1 at Bumble Hole Nature Reserve visitor centre at 11am.

Edwards gets pride of place in town's heart

HE is one of Dudley's most loved footballing heroes and now Duncan Edwards' statue has been given new prominence in the heart of the town.

Members of his family were among scores of people who attended a re-dedication ceremony last week.

The Manchester United and England star's statue has been repositioned as part of a revamp of the town centre. It would have been Edwards' 79th birthday on October 1 and he remains a legend to many in the Black Country.

Duncan's cousin Keith, 78, at the ceremony said: "It means a lot to all of us. We come down here twice a year, on the day Duncan was born and the day he died. The whole family are so proud."

The statue has been moved across the market place to the Castle Street side as part of a £6.7 million revamp.

Coachloads

Three coachloads of Manchester United fans travelled to Dudley for the special service.

Brian Mulholland, from the Manchester United Supporters Club, said the re-dedicated statue would become a pilgrimage site for thousands of Manchester United fans.

Mr Mulholland, 65, said: "It's a credit to the town, Dudley Council and especially to Duncan's family."

"I was only eight when he died so don't remember him when he was playing but I've seen the videos and heard all the stories."

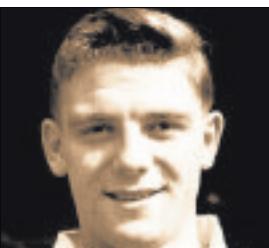
"I met a chap today who went to school with Duncan and he said he probably would've been one of the greatest footballers ever."

A new plinth on the statue was unveiled by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Walther and Duncan's third cousin, 12-year-old Connor Devlin.

Duncan Edwards died aged 21 from injuries sustained in the 1958 Munich air disaster.



Mayor Steve Walther and Conor Devlin, 12, with football freestyler Colin Nell from London, who gave a display



Duncan Edwards – died aged 21



John Edwards, Beatrice Lloyd, Eva Walton, Sidney Edwards, Keith Edwards

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Nearly one thousand temp jobs at council

NEARLY 1,000 staff are being employed on temporary contracts by Dudley Council.

The 978 employees hired by Dudley Council are paid on average £11.52 per hour, well above the national minimum wage of £6.50.

The majority are employed by the authority to work in schools across the borough. A total of 462 temporary staff work as either teachers or teaching assistants.

Other roles include administration assistants, library assistants, park rangers and social workers.

The authority was criticised in June when it emerged it was forking out £800 a day on employing an interim chief officer for children's services. The council has twice tried unsuccessfully to fill the post.

Necessary

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for corporate and customer services, said: "The work of the council is very varied and sometimes it is necessary to use temporary staff, such as seasonal staff who are required to work at specific times of the year, or those filling a statutory role which cannot be left vacant."

She added: "We employ temporary staff on occasions until a permanent member of staff can be found to fill the role."

"In all instances we ensure that the right person is taken on for the role to ensure we continue to provide first class services for borough residents."

Dangerous drug stolen from van

POLICE are warning about a potentially lethal drug that was stolen from a pharmacy van which was driven across the Black Country before being dumped in Wolverhampton.

The van was taken from Gough Road, Dudley, just before 10am on Thursday, then found a short time later in Bradley.

Two prescriptions were found to be missing, one of which was for the anti-cancer drug methotrexate.

Police say this drug is extremely dangerous to touch and could cause serious injury or even death if ingested by children or animals.

The 16 yellow tablets are in a small brown click-lock bottle.

Anyone with information should contact Wolverhampton Police on 101.

Peaky Blinders in return to locations

FILMING was due to start on the new series of Brummie gangster drama Peaky Blinders this week. The third series is expected to be shot on location in the Midlands again, including the Black Country Living Museum.

Concern at impact of office block sale



Cavendish House in Dudley town centre

EYESORE office block Cavendish House in Dudley is to be sold at auction – sparking fears major regeneration plans could be thrown into doubt.

It is the latest twist in the long-running saga over the future of the derelict building in the town centre.

The office block has been given a guide price of between £1.2 million and £1.5m and is to be sold through property consultants Allsop. The auction will be held on October 20. Dudley Council said it did not believe the sale would impact on Avenbury's proposed £50m Porters Field project.

Bosses from Abstract, the firm that owns the building, confirmed they had decided to sell the site.

Director Chris McPherson said: "If we could have found a way to make this work we would have. We originally purchased the building with the intention of building a health centre. Planning permission was granted but then the NHS went into its shell and we were left holding the baby."

Mr McPherson said they had been approached by supermarket chains and had submitted an alternative application which had also been granted.

But then Avenbury Developments submitted plans which led to delays.

"It seems the council is more in favour of the Avenbury scheme," he said. "We have been approached by parties interested in perhaps refurbishing the building so decided the time was right to put it on the market."

Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said: "I cannot believe the sale of Cavendish House will have no impact on the planned regeneration scheme. Everything hinges on what happens to that building."

Bid to create magic spell led to flat blaze

A LONELY man trying out a 'magic spell' in a bid to make new friends accidentally set fire to his flat in Dudley instead.

Duane Thurstance says he was given instructions at a magic shop to set fire to a life-size cardboard cut-out of a television character, which he later did at his flat in Broad Street on July 25 last year.

The 26-year-old who has mental health issues and cerebral palsy walked out of the building and failed to tell anyone what he had done, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

When the room erupted into flames, other residents in the block of flats were forced to flee to safety outside. The property suffered £3,000 damage as a result.

Thurstance, who admitted an offence of arson reckless as whether life was endangered at an earlier hearing, was found by police a short distance away from the scene after people in the area provided a description of him.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "He admitted that he had started the fire and told the officers he was practising witchcraft to obtain a friend."

"He started a fire so that an appropriate image would appear to him. That didn't happen so he left it. It was a life-size cardboard cut-out of a character from a TV series."

He told Wolverhampton Crown Court that at the time the defendant was in breach of a community order for a robbery in 2013.

Candles

Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, defending, said: "This offence arose after he was told by people who should have known better at a magic shop, that the spell would help him to meet people he could call friends."

"It consisted of setting down candles in circles and burning a small photo of somebody in a pot placed in the middle. Needless to say it was not successful. He says he only intended to singe the cardboard cut-out."

Mr Cadwaladr continued: "In this particular case I submit that his culpability is not very high. He is receiving effective treatment from two NHS nurses. He needs structure in his life and is getting that at the moment. His problem is that he is vulnerable."

Judge John Walsh said it was a 'troubling' case. He sentenced Thurstance, now of Wilbraham Court, Moat Road, Walsall, to a three-year community order.



Netherton father Craig Griffiths, aged 26, who died after his car crashed on Birmingham New Road, pictured with his five-year-old daughter

Family's tributes after car tragedy

TRIBUTES have been paid to a car enthusiast who died when his vehicle smashed into a tree and lampost beside the Birmingham New Road in Dudley.

Craig Griffiths got out of the car after the crash but then suffered a cardiac arrest at the scene. Paramedics treated him and he was taken to Russells Hall Hospital where he later died.

The family of Mr Griffiths has released a picture of him with his five-year-old daughter.

In a statement, the heartbroken family said: "He was a quiet and shy young man with a cheeky, infectious smile and he would do anything for anyone, always put others first."

The 26-year-old from Netherton was described as a brilliant father.

The crash happened near the empty King Arthur pub at around 10.20pm on September 29. No other vehicles are believed to have been involved. A passenger, aged 26, suffered minor injuries and was taken to hospital for treatment.

Floral tributes have been placed at the site by friends and family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sunday market opens for business

DUDLEY Market will open on Sundays for the first time ever in the lead up to Christmas.

Bosses hope the change, which comes into effect from October 25, will 'bring life back in to the town'.

A new company called Dudley Market Traders now run the market.

It is the first scheme of its kind in the Black Country, with Dudley Council retaining ownership of the market but handing over its running to the traders.

The market currently runs six days a week.

Glamorous ball is for Beacon charity

A LEADING West Midlands IT services provider has stepped forward to ensure a charity's 140th anniversary ball is a glittering success.

Osha Ltd, based in Broadlands, Wolverhampton, is sponsoring the Beacon event tomorrow (Fri).

The glamorous black tie 'Hollywood Ball' will be held at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, and tickets are priced at £30 per person, which includes a three-course meal and welcome drink.

More information is available at [www.beaconvivors.org](http://www.beaconvivors.org website).

Music and food in celebrations

A MUSIC event with Caribbean food is just one of the events taking place in Dudley to celebrate Black History Month.

The theme for this year's event – which takes place this month – is past and present. Events include local history talks, free taster sessions for an ancestry website and a variety of events celebrating black history. A free music and food tasting event at Dudley Library takes place on Saturday, October 17.

Restaurant revamp for pub at Castlegate

A PUB will be transformed into a Harvester restaurant under plans which will create jobs in Dudley.

Bostin Fittle, based on Castlegate Park, near Dudley Archives and the Black Country Living Museum, has been taken over by pub group Mitchells and Butlers.

The pub will be re-branded as a Harvester with a new menu and a revamped interior.

It was among 173 sites acquired from the Orchid pub estate in 2014.

Charity choral concert

A CHARITY concert will see Wulfruna Ladies Choir joined by Coseley Male Voice Choir at St Chad's Church in Oak Street on Saturday, October 24 from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 with proceeds to the Leukaemia Appeal Fund for the Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

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Bosses give pledge on hospital transport

HEALTH bosses vowed to ensure guidelines are followed for elderly patients after complaints over a hospital transport service in Dudley.

Patient-care firm NSL took over the service at Russells Hall Hospital in April, from previous provider Ambulance. But several patients claimed they were told they could no longer receive free transport as they were in receipt of mobility allowance.

The firm has since overturned the decision after holding discussions with a disability support group, Stourbridge MP Margot James and Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Access in Dudley, which champions the rights of disabled people, said NSL had been enforcing criteria that had never been enforced before. Dudley CCG said the 'criteria and call handler process' had been reviewed to ensure people were not being unfairly turned away. Dudley CCG chief executive Paul Maubach said: "There are clearly set out national guidelines which should be followed."

NSL spokesman Luke Allen said: "Following discussions with the CCG and Access in Dudley we have now improved our booking process. We do still ask the mobility allowance question, however, this is to ensure we correctly assess the patient's needs and does not influence the decision to provide transport."

Miss James said: "I am most impressed with how receptive the CCG and NSL have been. It does look firm now that people who are entitled to assistance will be getting it again."

Gas leak blaze quickly put out

FIRE crews were called to a house blaze in Wollaston sparked by a leaking gas valve.

The fire centred on an electric meter in the basement of the High Park Avenue house.

Fire crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill attended the incident.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman said: "It was a small fire involving an electric meter in the basement of a two-storey house. The fire was put out on arrival."

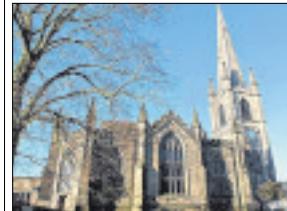
He added: "A gas leak was detected in the premises and the gas was isolated and the premises were ventilated."

"We had two fire fighters wearing breathing apparatus and a gas detection monitor was also in use."

Cannabis plant find prompts three arrests

MORE than 150 cannabis plants have been found growing at a property in Ley.

Three people were arrested after police raided the building in Enterprise Drive on Thursday evening.



St Thomas and St Luke (Top Church)

A £250,000 overhaul of Dudley's Top Church has been given the go-ahead, ensuring the historic site can be preserved for generations to come.

The work, partially funded by Heritage Lottery cash, is set to take place next year and will be carried out in three phases at the Grade-II listed St Thomas and St Luke Church, in High Street.

As part of the project, walkways and ladders will be installed on the roof, glass panels added to the main doors and one of the site's 11 windows restored.

Church leaders said the improvements were crucial in ensuring the building could be properly maintained in the future.

Dudley Council has approved the scheme and cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund is set to be finalised in December. The fund has agreed in principle to provide £169,000 towards the project.

Members of the church will be making bids to other funding groups to secure further cash towards the project.

They said ladders and walkways were desperately needed on the roof,

which cannot be safely accessed at the moment, which means scaffolding has to be put up around the entire building if work is required.

The church is one of the three earliest in the country to use cast-iron in its construction, including the window frames. But the metal in the frames has started to oxidise, posing a risk to stonework, and needs to be cleaned and restored.

The window will be totally removed so the work can be carried out, and if effective could be extended to the other 10 windows.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Meeting to discuss blood disorder ITP

A MEETING will be held at a Dudley church to offer advice about a rare blood disorder.

People are invited to discuss their experiences with the blood disorder Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), which affects the immune system and impedes blood clotting.

The event will be taking place at the Zoar Methodist Church on Abbey Road, in Lower Gornal, on Saturday from 7pm to 8.30pm.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information contact Hannah Taylor on 07775433314.

Memory tree is to help charities

A MEMORY tree event will be held in aid of charity. Organised by Wombourne Funeral Services, the event will be held on October 23 and 24, raising money for Midlands Air Ambulance and Wombourne Volunteer Bureau.

The family business raises money for charities every year.

This year's memory tree event will be opened by Wolves legend Derek Parkin on the Friday and Nick Owen of Midlands Today on the Saturday at 9.30am at 124 Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne. For details call 01902 892635.

Ultimate cafe has created 15 jobs

A CAFE has opened its second UK outlet in Dudley, creating 15 jobs. Ultimate Cafe is within leisure store Ultimate Outdoors at Merry Hill.

The cafe, in partnership with The Interesting Eating Company, has quirky offerings including speciality pancakes. Director Andrea Edwards, said: "Having opened the original Ultimate Cafe (in Preston) almost one year ago, it's fantastic to see how far we have come in a relatively short space of time."

Spooky spectacular at the safari park

ILLUMINATED dinosaurs, spooky scarecrows and plenty of pumpkins will greet visitors to West Midland Safari Park in the run up to Halloween.

The attraction has launched its Spooky Spectacular with ghoulish goings-on and special sea lion show.

More than 100 scarecrows and 1,700 pumpkins are used in the event until November 1. Opening will be extended until 9pm on weekends and during October half term. Animal reserves close at 4pm. See www.wmsp.co.uk

War games in library

THE Friends of Sedgley Library have arranged a war gaming demonstration in the library on Saturday, October 10 from 4pm.

People will have a chance to try out table-top battling featuring an ancient Greeks versus Romans demonstration at the library off Ladies Walk.

Children's centres may host health services

EXTRA services will be moved into children's centres across Dudley, as part of a shake-up in the borough.

The changes are coming about because the responsibility for commissioning public health services for children has transferred from NHS England to local authorities.

A report presented to the Dudley Council's People's Service committee sets out options to improve the integration of services. Among the proposals is locating midwifery services, health visitors and family support workers in children's centres.

As part of the shake-up, a weekly multi-agency safeguarding group is proposed to discuss new ways to improve early intervention and ensure referrals into children's social care services are appropriate.

Moving the registration of new births to children centres will also be explored to increase the numbers of vulnerable families accessing other available services.

The report states the advantage of the council taking over responsibilities is that it has the potential to provide a more cost-effective service built around individual needs.

Benefit

Deborah Harkins, chief officer for health and well-being at Dudley Council, said: "The benefit of bringing these services together is to provide an integrated service with a single point of access for children and families."

"There is a slight variance in roles between different providers in supporting children and families, so this transfer will enable them to work more closely together around families' needs. Pilot sites are still to be decided."

The new weekly safeguarding group will allow our frontline professionals an opportunity to share intelligence around safeguarding issues and fulfil their duty to contribute as part of a multi-agency approach.

"Birth registration at a locality level enables new parents to be known to the locality team, who can introduce them to local centres and services they can access."

She added: "This development is in the very early stages of consideration."

"We will consult local communities if it is felt there is merit in these proposals before taking any final decision on how this provision will be shaped."

Stars show they have wow factor



TV stars Jake Quickenden and Stephanie Pratt meet fans during Intu Merry Hill's special student night

FORMER X Factor singer turned I'm A Celebrity star Jake Quickenden and reality TV star Stephanie Pratt wowed the crowds at a special students' night at Merry Hill shopping centre.

The famous pair were guests of honour as Intu Merry Hill centre held its annual student night offering discounts at the shopping complex.

They appeared on stage and took part in a game where they

were joined by members of the crowd to try and remember the lyrics of songs.

Jake, who won an army of fans during last year's X Factor and I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here, was mobbed with requests for pictures and autographs. He was mentored by Mel B in the star-making show before entering the celebrity jungle and finishing as runner-up to superbiker Carl Fogarty.

He was happy with the reaction he received, saying: "They were all lovely, it was really nice. I have been to Birmingham quite a few times, it is the first time in Dudley but it won't be the last."

Glamorous Stephanie was due to be accompanied by fellow Made In Chelsea star Jamie Laing but he was unable to make it.

Charlotte Hall, aged 17 from Stourbridge, who met Jake, said: "I am speechless, he is beautiful."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Slogan was plumbing the depths for rugby

I KNOW nothing about rugby, and to be frank I find the oval-ball game about as interesting as a box set of *Downton Abbey*.

But the England team went into this World Cup under the slogan "let's get the job done."

That's not a battle cry, it's an advert for a plumbers' merchant. No wonder they were ballcocks.

...

MAYBE the story about the Government allowing police forces to use devious, covert methods to snare speeding drivers, and then changing its mind following tabloid intervention, should be treated with a degree of scepticism.

But what says so much about Britain today is the explanation given by the Government for dropping the code of practice which said cameras only be bright yellow and only located at accident blackspot. "A Department for Transport spokesman said the 2007 rules were out of date," said the report.

Oh yes, out of date. That time-honoured, catch-all phrase for everyone with no other justification for their actions. Aside from the fact that the guidelines were introduced only eight years ago, since when has transport legislation been about the whims of fashion?

There are lots of things about our judicial systems that are out of date. Judges wearing wigs, Lords wearing ermine. Titles like Lord Chancellor and Mr Justice Smith. By and large they are harmless, and if anything maybe give a bit of gravitas to the proceedings.

But rules saying that speed cameras should be sensibly located and not hidden from view? Surely that's just fair play and common sense.

If the guidelines do need updating, how about adding a requirement that every camera should be clearly marked with what the actual speed limit is? I know at this point the pedants will point out that in the absence of a sign to the contrary national speed limits apply, which means 30 in a built-up-area, 60 on a single carriageway, and 70 on a double. But why not make it easy? They do want people to stick to the limits, don't they?

Meanwhile, it was revealed at the weekend the closure of 28 police stations around West Midlands. We all know cash is short and cuts have to be made, but how can it be right leaving a town the size of Dudley without a police station, and then spending money on hidden speed traps? Maybe they think police stations are out of date as well.

...

THEN again, there are some things about life today I find difficult to get my head around.

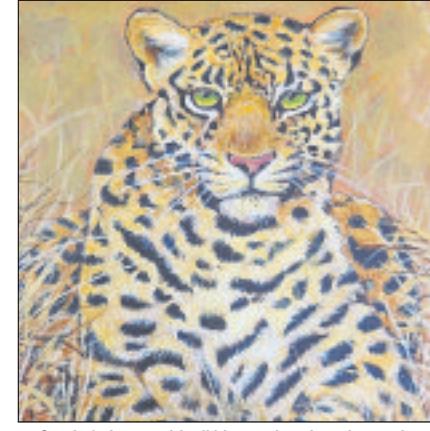
Like how is it that the most popular programme on television today is about a bunch of people baking cakes?



Sam strokes a cheetah while working at Dudley Zoo in 1962



Thank you gifts – one of the paintings created for Dudley Zoo



Sam's father would tell him stories about leopards

Artist's inspiration fired by time at zoo

Zoo keeper sacked because of too much time spent drawing animals says thanks for career.

HEATHER LARGE reports

GROWING up listening to stories about leopards prowling the jungle inspired Rama Samaraweera to become a keeper at Dudley Zoo.

But this love for big cats also got the self-taught artist the sack from the Castle Hill attraction – because he spent more time sketching the animals than on his zoo duties.

Now aged 89, he has created three original oil paintings for the zoo to say thank you for being his 'art school' and also to make amends for 'not being the best ever zoo keeper'.

Birmingham-born Mr Samaraweera, known as Sam, began working at the attraction in 1962, and before getting the elbow became fond of many of the animal residents, who he loved to study and draw.

Encouraged

His love of animals came from his father, a doctor and surgeon from Ceylon, now known as Sri Lanka, who told him stories about the wild animals and encouraged his art.

He said: "As a four-year-old I drew tigers and other animals and was always encouraged by my father."

"Dad trained in the UK and worked as a GP in Birmingham, where I was born. He told me stories of leopards and elephants in the jungle and told me I was an artist and not a doctor."

"Forty years later I became a self-employed artist, having learned to understand the big cats and other animals whilst working as a zoo keeper at Dudley Zoo."

"I was soon sacked for spending too much time drawing and studying the animals. This was my only art school."

Mr Samaraweera said he grew a particular soft spot for some of the animals during his



Former zoo keeper Rama Samaraweera with his oil paintings of animals

time at the attraction. He added: "I fell in love with Grace the giraffe, who took a banana from my coat pocket each day with her long tongue."

"I used to walk the cheetahs round the zoo, which always caused excitement, and much

amusement when one lay down and would not be budged. It often took two keepers just to move it!"

After leaving the zoo his art career took off, leading him to exhibit at the Royal Academy, The Society of Wood Engravers, The Graphic

Society, The Society of Wildlife Artists and The Pastel Society. In the 1970s his 'Clouded Leopard' picture was the biggest-selling print in America.

He said: "After training as teacher, my wife Sue and I went to teach in Jamaica and I lectured in art and English literature."

"Later my publisher and great friend, the late John Solomon, gave me my first

London exhibition, which sold out. John then published several prints during the 1970s and my painting of a clouded leopard became the best-selling print in America."

"The house we now live in is called Solomon House, after John Solomon, and the royalties from the leopard print and many others paid for our home."

"John told me I must paint for love and never money – and I never forgot this sound advice. Like most artists, I am very driven and have to go to my studio every day."

Mr Samaraweera, who now lives in South Wales, wanted to thank the zoo for inspiring his career as an artist, which has spanned five decades.

His nephew Phil Brooks, who is head of photography at Dudley College, delivered the artworks to the zoo.

Professional

"The three pictures are to say thank you to Dudley Zoo for inspiring uncle Sam and also to try and make amends for him not being the best ever zoo keeper."

"He's been a professional wildlife painter for the last 50 years and to this day credits Dudley Zoo as the catalyst for his career. Uncle Sam was only at the zoo for a year but he did love the animals, especially the big cats."

"His doctor says it's the painting which keeps uncle Sam young because he gets so deeply lost in his work that it puts him into a meditative state."

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "We are so grateful to Sam for giving us these incredible pieces of art. 'I'm glad he's enjoyed such a rewarding career in art after leaving zoo keeping behind and we'll definitely make sure the paintings take pride of place at Dudley Zoo."

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.'

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Predator drones, like all machines, lack the human qualities of judgment, mercy, and compassion and their operators are in no danger, hidden away in a warm and comfy RAF bunker.

What has happened to the Geneva Con-

vention? Britain once led the world in democracy, Magna Carta, joining NATO, the UN, and European Human Rights Convention. Now we see a British Prime Minister ordering the death of people with no trial. Anonymous killer drone operators never answer the consequences for their actions. Mr Cameron ordered the execution, but his henchmen or women are never named and shamed. Will we ever have drone executions on British soil?

G E FANTHOM
Swindon Village

Cameron is right on migrants

TIM Farron has condemned the Government for their stance on the Syrian refugee crisis, but the Liberal Democrat leader and Labour party supporters must realise we just cannot take in endless amounts of migrants that we are unable to cope with.

Estimates suggest that with current birth rates, the UK's population will rise by a projected 20 million in the next 30 years.

This rise in our population is already putting immense strain on our public services, school places, hospitals, now the Government want a million houses built over the next few years, if they can find the space.

So I think David Cameron is right to restrict the number of Syrian refugees coming to Britain to 20,000 over a five-year period, while at the same time giving generous financial support to refugee camps in the Middle East, which in turn could deter people from making life threatening efforts to gain entry into Europe.

A P CUFF
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Private care sector is facing a crisis

CURRENTLY across the West Midlands some 26,300 people are looked after in residential care and a similar number receive care packages in their homes.

The majority of that care is from private providers, who, according to regional figures released by Skills for Care — the development body for adult social care in England — employ a staggering 125,000 carers.

It's an immense workforce and sadly, like no time ever before, is under threat.

Care businesses in this part of the country rely heavily on local authorities purchasing beds as a primary income generator.

Revised regulatory governance, government austerity measures, the

Rules will go up in smoke

HOW can the new law on smoking be policed? The law now says that, it is illegal to smoke in a car with a person under the age of 18 in the vehicle. Not only has the perpetrator got to be seen by a police officer, apart from being in a child's seat, how will a PC know if the passenger is under the age of 18?

What if the driver is under 18 and smoking?

Every day drivers can be seen using mobile phones, speeding, driving through traffic lights on red, parking on zigzag lines at pedestrian crossings. How many are caught by the law?

The chances of them being caught in the future are probably even less than you thought.

There are not enough police to turn out for break-ins, and it will get worse, just ask any police officer.

N D CADDICK

Coseley

Appointment admin snag

YOUR article regarding missed NHS appointments made no reference to the amount of appointments missed through lack of appropriate administration.

I was referred by my GP and the letter notifying me of the appointment was dated and actually post marked a further seven days after that! I was lucky that the actual appointment was a further month down the line. The often forgotten administrators are an important link and should not be the first to go in any cost-cutting exercises.

We are appealing for MPs, councillors, local authority officers and Clinical Commissioning Groups to join with us to find a way ahead.

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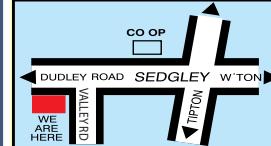
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Everyone gets what no one voted for

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

THE kingdom of Mercia rising up to challenge the expansionist West Midlands Combined Authority has a certain romance to it.

Of course it's really rather more bureaucratic than that.

The counties of Staffordshire and Shropshire don't see themselves as part of what is commonly known as the West Midlands, or do they want to be left behind to become a leafy meat in the sandwich of a Northern Powerhouse and a Midlands Engine.

The rural counties are facing the same dilemma that the Black Country and Birmingham had a year ago.

If they do not throw their lot in with someone, they risk losing out on investment and powers to the likes of Greater Manchester.

Pride

But they also have their own pride and their own identities. Similarly, they have their own separate issues.

Staffordshire is not Birmingham, even if many people in some parts of it happen to work in the second city.

So the suggestion by MPs Gavin Williamson, Jeremy Lefroy and Karen Bradley is for Staffordshire, Shropshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to join forces in a 'Mercian economic partnership'.

Mercia is a much nicer name than West Midlands Combined Authority, or WMCA, which seems to be racing ahead, if the leaked document about



Would George Osborne go for the nationalisation of the M6 Toll?

its bid for devolved powers is anything to go by. No-one connected with the WMCA is allowed to talk about what is meant to be a work in progress.

For a start, until this document came to light there was no firm plan to accept an elected mayor.

Now we find the first citizen of the West Midlands is not only very much on the cards but also set to have the power to levy council tax. And there's an ambitious bid for millions of pounds of taxpayers' money to make the M6 Toll free to use.

It might well put paid to any suggestions of reviving the Western Orbital Route. But would the Chancellor go for it? Nationalising a private company doesn't sound particularly Tory. Yet if it's in the powers of a democratically elected regional mayor, George Osborne can wash his hands of the

whole thing. Another thing we have learned is that Telford and Wrekin wants in to the WMCA, following Cannock Chase and Tamworth.

The three won't be full members, but rather 'non-constituent' ones. What that means is a seat at the table and voting rights, but no involvement in the devolution deal. That leaves them free to sign up to the Staffordshire MPs' grand Mercia plan as well.

It's all starting to get a little messy. There's also still the issue of a small but vocal group of people who feel rather cheated that they will not get a referendum on the matter.

And there's the rub on devolution. It's all meant to be about democracy and putting power in the hands of the people. But as things stand, everyone's going to get what no-one voted for.

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Police smash window of car to save baby doll



Delesia Rattray, 20, of Dudley, in her car with her ten-year-old sister Janaih Rattray and the baby doll called Ryan

POLICE smashed through the window of a car parked at a Dudley hospital fearing a baby was locked inside – only to discover that it was a doll.

The doll belonged to 10-year-old Janaih Rattray and had been left in her sister Delesia's car at Russells Hall Hospital when they were visiting their mother.

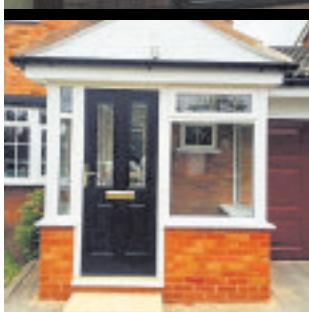
The alarm was raised by a passer-by and officers, believing the lifelike doll to be a real baby, forced their way into the Vauxhall Corsa.

Delesia, aged 20, from Dudley, thought she had been the victim of the break-in. The Wolverhampton University student and her mother Carole Johnson believe officers should have been able to tell that the doll, which is called Ryan, was not real.

Police chiefs praised the actions of the officers and said they thought a baby had been left by a 'depressed' mother for hospital staff to find. They said attempts were made to trace the owner of the car but with time passing they were left with no option but to smash the window. The force has agreed to pay around £90.



The doll seen through a car window



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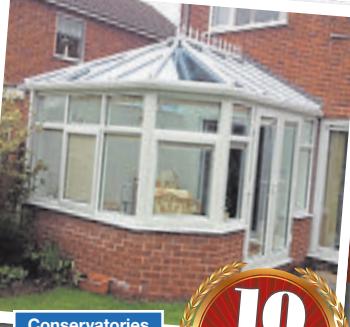
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Guest digs in for talk about bulbs

Cleint Gardening Club

At the beginning of September the club held the Annual Cleint Flower Show in conjunction with Cleint WI and there was a splendid array of flowers and produce on display from club members and guests.

The WI members were not to be outdone with their own displays of cakes, preserves and crafts. A large number of parishioners and guests enjoyed the displays and next year it is hoped to hold a bumper show as it will be the show's 70th anniversary.

The club's monthly meeting in September welcomed guest speaker Dr John Page to give a talk on introducing bulbs. His talk was illustrated with a splendid array of photographs of bulbs flowering throughout the year both in the UK and beyond.

He gave advice on the cultivation and care of bulbs with different varieties requiring different levels of care and attention which was attentively received by his audience.

At the end of the meeting the chairman announced the results of the monthly competitions and reminded members that the next monthly meeting is on Friday, October 23 when Ingrid Millington will give a seasonal talk entitled Autumn in the Garden.

Meetings which are held at Cleint Village Hall on the fourth Friday each month. Visit <https://cleintgardening-club.wordpress.com> or call chairman Martin Grange 01562 883009 or 07917 184762 for more details.

Evening not to be missed for villagers

Sedgley Local History Society

Relating history of Lunar Society

Amblecote History Society

THE next meeting of the Amblecote History Society will take place on Wednesday, October 14, starting at 7.30pm in the Furnace Theatre at The Ruskin Centre in Amblecote.

The speaker will be Andrew Lound who will relate the story of one of the most influential groups in the 18th century, the Lunar Society, whose interests in astronomy based on new research has revealed some surprising facts.

Andrew presents his Odyssey dramatic presentation about the astronomical work of James Watt, Matthew Boulton & Joseph Priestley – a dramatic presentation, beautifully illustrated and accompanied by music and presented with 18th century flair!

Not to be missed, so arrive early to get a good seat in the larger theatre at The Ruskin Centre.

Visitors are always most welcome at a small admission charge of £2 on the door.

The society meets on every second Wednesday of the month and enjoys a varied programme with outdoor meetings during the summer months.

To learn more about the society and the remainder of the 2015 meeting programme as well as to access many interesting articles and photographs of the area visit: www.amblecotehistorysociety.org.uk

Odes on experience of life

MEMBERS and visitors met on September 23. The meeting began with the speaker Ken Gilkes whose talk was entitled Odes of Life and Laughter.

He began by saying how boring his life is and how he only knows what day it is according to which breakfast he is given.

This struck a chord with the group and then from start to finish the ladies never stopped laughing as he recited his odes,

MyTime Over Fifties

written in response to his experiences of life. MyTime Over Fifties meets in the Amblecote Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on the fourth Wednesday in the month. The next meeting is on October 28 when Linda Ellis will update the group on macular degeneration. For more details call Audrey on 01384 864223 or Graham on 01384 393499.

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Slimmer Kelly sets example

A WOMAN who shed eight stone in weight will be sharing her success and experiences with others after launching her own slimming class.

Kelly Sansome, 43, of Wynnall Lane, Wollescote, decided to take action following a terrifying experience where she struggled to breathe and had to be put on oxygen.

The mother-of-two was about to turn 40 at the time and weighed nearly 20st.

But after joining a slimming group at Dingle Community Centre, in Kingswinford, Mrs Sansome says she has never looked back.

She now weighs a much healthier 11st and says she is all the happier for it and has been inspired to help others achieve the same success via her own slimming class at Gig Mill Primary School, in Norton.

THE man who branded the Black Country flag 'offensive' because of the connection between chains and slavery has been urged to apologise when he visits this weekend.

Historian Patrick Vernon is coming to Wolverhampton as part of Black History Month to give a talk on the Windrush generation of Caribbean migrants.

The London-based but Wolverhampton-born campaigner sparked fury in July when he branded the flag, designed by a 12-year-old Dudley schoolgirl to celebrate the Black Country's industrial heritage, as 'insensitive'.

Mr Vernon, who faced calls to hand back his OBE after sparking the row, will give a talk at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, before presenting a film about the life of Jamaican Second World War pilot Eddie Martin Noble at the Light House Media Centre the same day.

Sedgley UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge said: "Perhaps Mr Vernon can take the opportunity to learn more about Black Country history and understand the real relevance of the chain to the flag. It would not be amiss for him to apologise for the offence he caused." Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dudley North, said: "Perhaps while he is in the Black Country Patrick Vernon will see the deep sense of pride that people from all backgrounds have and see how this region lit the spark that fired the industrial revolution."

Mr Vernon, aged 54, said: "I am very familiar with the Black Country industrial heritage and history. If local people wish to learn more about the slave trade and its links with the Black Country, I would encourage them to visit the various archives and museums in Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton."

Puppy dog tale all over internet



Susan Nock with eight-week-old Ollie, who has become an internet superstar

A CUTE dog's tale of woe – combined with an adorable home video – has taken the internet by storm.

The 16-second clip of eight-week-old Bichon Frise, Ollie, has been viewed by more than 1.2 million people across the planet in a matter of days.

The short video shows the pup enjoying having his stomach rubbed.

Owners Chris and Susan Nock, from Stourbridge, only posted the video on Facebook after being told by vets that Ollie was fighting for his life.

Recovery

They were told he may not survive 48 hours – after falling ill just two days after his new owners had collected him.

A blood test revealed Ollie had E.coli and the pet has since made a full recovery.

Peer is tempted to run for mayor role

DIGBY Jones, one of the most prominent figures in British business has admitted he is "sorely tempted" by the idea of running as mayor of his native West Midlands.

But Lord Jones of Birmingham said the chances of putting himself forward as head of the region's new combined authority were currently no more than "five or ten per cent". He was talking during a business mini-conference on board the Queen Elizabeth cruise liner at the weekend, organised by Black County property tycoon Roy Richardson and his family.

Senior company executives and leading figures from the business community took part in a series of debates on the combined authority and what it could mean for the region.

Lord Jones said big metropolitan councils like Wolverhampton and Birmingham would need to give up powers to make the new authority effective "but turkeys don't vote for Christmas."

Bowling for charity

A BOWLING club has helped raise £300 for the victims of the Nepal earthquake.

Crystal Bowls Club, based at Stevens Park, in Wollescote, staged the event on September 17.

The event had a football theme with a penalty shoot out where all players tried to get their bowls between very small posts.

Organisers gave special thanks to Sainsbury's at Amblecote, Tesco and Waitrose in Stourbridge for donating prizes.

Call for flag comment apology during historian's visit to city

Tenants urged to get involved

RESIDENTS are invited to a housing conference in a bid to encourage more people to get involved in the running of their estates.

The Dudley Council housing conference, which is open to anyone living on the borough's council housing estates, will promote opportunities for tenants, leaseholders and residents to get involved in how housing services are delivered.

It will take place on October 29 at Saltwells Education Centre, in Bowling Green Road, Netherton. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. There will be speakers at the event.

For more information call (01384) 815168 or email participation@dudley.gov.uk

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'I blubbed like a baby but I'm still standing'

A PROUD son has created a touching video revealing how his father defied medics who told him he had just one year to live.

Adrian Webb was diagnosed with skin cancer in September 2012 after his wife Michelle noticed a mole on his back had changed colour.

In the video Adrian's son Josh, a 22-year-old deputy manager at Aldi, holds up cards explaining that the cancer spread to his father's lungs, spleen, liver, bowel and spine.

Doctors gave him a year to live, but he has beat the odds and has now pledged to raise £25,000 for Cancer Research UK to help others.

It initially gives the impression Adrian didn't make his 50th birthday this year, but the final clips show Adrian walking into shot with a card reading 'Thanks to research - I'm still standing' and he hugs his wife

and 19-year-old daughter Amelia.

The music distribution manager from Netherton credits trial drugs for keeping him alive so far.

He said: "The consultant said I might have as little as 12 months left. I blubbed like a two-year-old because I thought it was all over."

"Once I'd stopped blubbing I said OK what can you do for me? That's when they said that there might be a trial drug option."

So far Adrian has been given three drugs and been told his cancer has shrunk to a trace. He added: "I'm a very positive person. I have to see my daughter get a degree, I have to see both my children get married."

The Stand Up To Cancer fundraising initiative were so impressed with the film they have showcased it on their Facebook page, where it has been viewed more than 5,000 views.



Still standing — Adrian Webb with son Josh, 22, whose video celebrated his determination to survive

Motorway upgrade plans are 're-heated'

A £1.8 billion package of motorway improvements has been branded as 're-heating' old plans announced multiple times over the past five years.

Highways England unveiled 10 projects to cut congestion and improve journeys in the West Midlands at an event in Birmingham.

The schemes include:

Building the M54/M6/M6 Toll link road — first announced in 2003, revived in 2010 and funding committed in 2013.

Constructing two new bridges at junction 10 of the M6 at Walsall to widen the roundabout and create four lanes — announced in July last year by Chancellor George Osborne.

Upgrading the M6 junctions 13-15 from Stafford to Stoke to four lane 'smart motorways' with variable speed limits — first revealed in summer 2013.

M5 improvements between junctions 5 and 7 — announced in December.

Highways England regional director, Tim Harbott said: "These new schemes will bring huge improvements to journeys around the Midlands."

Record

"The Government has committed record funding to specific transport projects here so the Midlands can act as a transport hub for the entire country."

As Highways England, we're delivering that investment to help unlock billions for the economy by increasing road capacity, improving the flow of traffic and improving safety and accessibility for all road users."

But Warley MP John Spellar was critical, saying many of the schemes had been announced at least three times in the past year.

He said: "I am absolutely astonished that the transport department and their



John Spellar MP - astonished

companies are continuing to re-heat existing proposals and give the impression that they are new.

"Good hardy folk in the Black Country and West Midlands will not be fooled by this. We want less talk and more action. When will they learn?"

A Highways England spokesman said it was the first time the company, which has replaced the Highways Agency in April, had discussed details of the plans.

Officials met with suppliers to set out how the money will be spent to improve the roads.

In total, £600 million will be spent on maintenance, including £160m to resurface more than 900 miles of carriageway, £225m for repairing and renewing structures like bridges and viaducts, and £60m to improve vehicle barriers by 2020.

Bosses said they are yet to choose what route the M54/M6/M6 Toll link road will take.

For first-time buyers

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society has launched a 100 per cent mortgage to help first-time buyers get on the property ladder. The Tipton's 100 per cent Family Assist mortgage has been designed to help those who don't have a deposit borrow up to 100 per cent of the property's purchase price, with a charge taken against a family member's property as security. It has a variable rate of 3.99 per cent.

Volunteers needed for diabetes support

DIABETES UK is looking for people in Dudley with Type 2 diabetes who are interested in helping to support others who also have the condition.

The charity is pioneering a new service called Type 2 Together, which will connect people who have Type 2 diabetes in local surroundings. Diabetes UK is seeking to recruit and train volunteers with Type 2 diabetes in Dudley to lead these relaxed, informal group sessions.

Peter Shorrick, Midlands Regional Manager for Diabetes UK, said: "We know that people with Type 2 diabetes can often feel worried or unsure about how best to manage their condition. The new service is all about helping people meet others who also have the condition, and supporting them to learn more about how to manage their diabetes better."

Would-be volunteers will need to be able to commit to a day of training and a few hours of volunteering each month. Diabetes UK will provide practical tools and a specialist educator to help support them.

To find out about volunteering, or to register, call 0345 123 2399 or email [Type2Together@diabetes.org.uk](mailto>Type2Together@diabetes.org.uk)

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Hickory's opening date is set

AN American barbecue restaurant at the former Kingfisher Club will open before Christmas.

Hickory's Smokehouse took over at the former nightspot in Wall Heath and set about a major renovation in August. It is now taking bookings from November 25. Spokeswoman Jennie Grimes said: "We have started interviewing for full and part-time staff and have been very impressed by the people we have seen. Hickory's Wall Heath will create up to 60 full and part-time jobs. The company is also keen to use local suppliers and brewers."

The restaurant, which specialises in dishes from America's Deep South, will be the first Hickory's Smokehouse in the West Midlands. Other branches are in Chester, West Kirby and Rhos-on-Sea.

Defibrillator is installed

A POTENTIAL life-saver has been installed by the gates of a Kingswinford school. Charlotte Taylor, a Glynne Primary School parent, decided to help following the death of her father due to cardiac arrest.

Charlotte and Pete's wife, Sue, donated money for a security box for a defibrillator provided by the parent teacher association, supplied by West Midlands Ambulance Service and Fast-Aid Black Country.

FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD AND WALL HEATH

Sad day as the exhibition closes at glass museum

AN acclaimed museum has closed its doors for the final time after more than 35 years of exhibitions and events.

Staff and artists at Broadfield House Glass Museum said it had been a 'very sad day' but were delighted so many people came along on closing day to give the site a fitting send-off.

By Lee Walton

ple looking forward to the future in the shape of the new museum.

Mr Malcolm said he would continue to work from the Broadfield site until Christmas though it is now closed to the public. He said he was in talks with the British Glass Foundation, who will take on the management of the new site when it is built, about continuing demonstrations there.

The new museum is being funded by a £2.13m European grant and the proceeds of the sale of Broadfield House will be part of the council's contribution. Collections from Broadfield House will be mothballed at the site in the meantime.

Broadfield House's original structure was a two-storey farmhouse in the 18th century. In the 1800s it was transformed into an imposing three-storey residence.

Studio

Glass artist Allister Malcolm, who had his studio based at the museum, said Wednesday had been a day of mixed feelings.

"Obviously it was a very sad occasion having to say goodbye to Broadfield," he said. "A lot of people from the community were very sad to see it go.

"However there was also optimism as well with people looking forward to the future in the shape of the new museum."



Glass artist Allister Malcolm at work in his studio at the Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford

Whodunnit play has a funny twist

THE audience will be kept guessing next week as an amateur dramatics society brings its murder mystery show to Kingswinford.

Murder in Play, at Kingswinford Methodist Church for four nights until Saturday, is a whodunnit with plenty of laughs.

Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society will be performing the comedy, while keeping the audience on their toes to work out who the villain.

Director Andrew Rock said: "It is a murder mystery with some great laughs and some very over-the-top performances."

The play tells of a theatre company presenting a murder mystery in which the murder is all too real.

Tickets cost £7 and can be ordered by calling (01384) 273026. It's £6 for pensioners and full-time students under 21.

Sales boost creates jobs

A KINGSWINFORD company that designs, makes and installs commercial kitchens has stepped up recruitment.

Francis Catering Equipment, which currently employs 46 at its Ham Lane base, has seen business soar within the past 18 months.

Francis Catering Equipment has been recruiting welders, labourers, drivers, ventilation engineers, plumbers, electricians, gas fitters and warehouse staff.

Defibrillator is installed

A POTENTIAL life-saver has been installed by the gates of a Kingswinford school. Charlotte Taylor, a Glynne Primary School parent, decided to help following the death of her father due to cardiac arrest.

Charlotte and Pete's wife, Sue, donated money for a security box for a defibrillator provided by the parent teacher association, supplied by West Midlands Ambulance Service and Fast-Aid Black Country.

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Business pals help to furnish homes for veterans

TWO best friends from Brierley Hill have put their DIY skills to the test by lending a helping hand to veterans in Manchester — and their work can be seen on a popular TV show.

David Perry and Jamie Woods, from Stourbridge, were approached by DIY SOS to help them spend two weeks transforming streets in Newton Heath for former soldiers to move into with their families.

Reclaimed

The team behind the BBC programme, hosted by Nick Knowles, wanted to see whether the fledgling furniture company could help towards their latest project.

Refugees are human: Ex-target of Taliban

A MAN who fled the tyranny of the Taliban in Afghanistan has called on people to remember that there are human beings behind the numbers, in the midst of the Syrian refugee situation.

His comments came in the wake of some councils in the region asking for guarantees of further Government funding before taking on their share of 20,000 Syrians due to come to the UK.

The councils' concerns drew sympathy from Rohullah Yakobi, who was tortured in his native Afghanistan when he was just 12 years old.

The 28-year-old father of two, from Oxley, Wolverhampton, came to Britain in 2004 and now works with the Human Security Centre, a think tank in London.

He said: "It's entirely understandable that they may resist more people coming into their area, given the budgetary constraints councils are going through, particularly if an asylum seeker is not allowed to work and contribute."

"Someone arriving as I did will have no sense of Britishness and will have to find their own way."

"But I've never doubted the generosity of the British people and I'm delighted to be a British citizen myself."

"When we look at statistics and figures like this we do not see the human beings. We forget the human side of the crisis."

"What we're talking



Rohullah Yakobi — fled tyranny in Afghanistan

about here are numbers, costs, housing and so on. We have to remember that there are people at the heart of this."

• The Chronicle would like to clarify that the photograph used of Mr Yakobi and his family in last week's edition was intended to illustrate his comments on the Syrian refugees issue. However, his quotes weren't used and subsequently we would like to apologise to Mr Yakobi for any inconvenience or distress caused by this.

Island restaurant gets the go-ahead

MULTI-MILLION pound plans for a restaurant at Birchley Island in Oldbury have been given the green light.

The restaurant between the island and the M5 slip road will create 80 full-time and part-time jobs and will be part of the Greene King's Farmhouse Inn chain.

The site has previously been earmarked for a hotel and casino but both schemes failed to get off the ground.

The land will now be put into use after Sandwell Council gave planning permission to the restaurant scheme.

Developer St Modwen said work on the building work will begin next year.

The Farmhouse Inns chain of restaurants offer diners a daily carvery and are known for their large cakes. The scheme also includes a car park with 95 spaces.

The 13,811 sq ft restaurant will have two entrances to accommodate those visiting to enjoy a meal and those using the bar.

In 2011, planning permission was granted for a casino and an 80-bed hotel on the site, which is bounded by the A4123 Wolverhampton Road to the south. The £6 million project ever got off the ground.



David Perry, left, and Jamie Woods, right, with the presenter of TV's DIY SOS Nick Knowles

Jail for motorist who almost hit runners

A DRINK-driver who drove onto a Birmingham 10K course run, narrowly missing runners, has been jailed for 14 months.

Unemployed Ibrar Shazad Boston, ignored marshalls at the Morrison's Great Birmingham 10k Road Race on May 3 and drove his blue Renault Megane over grass and a pavement. Police spotted Boston gesturing at a council worker in a road sweeper who was blocking his path on Pershore Road. As motorbike officer approached Boston drove off at speed, narrowly missing runners and just missing the police bike. Boston drove through cones along Sherlock Street, before colliding with railings and abandoning the vehicle. He was arrested nearby.

The 35-year-old of Cooksey Road, Small Heath, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and with excess alcohol at Birmingham Crown Court where he was banned from driving for over four years.

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Festive Gift Fair just the Christmas ticket

COMPETITION

COMBINE your Christmas shopping with a fun day out as the Festive Gift Fair is back, this year celebrating its 20th birthday.

Chronicle readers can be there to enjoy all the fun of the fair.

With more than 325 stalls from all over the country, overflowing with cracking gift ideas, visitors are guaranteed to be inspired.

One of the most popular Christmas shopping events in the UK, takes place at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham from November 12-15 with more to see, try, touch, taste, buy and enjoy ever before.

The variety is huge, with something for all the family – from babies to teenagers, from parents to grandparents!

Youngsters

There will be entertainment while you shop, courtesy of live bands, while the fair wouldn't be the same without the most outrageous Dame accompanied by Father Christmas himself.

For the youngsters there are lots of fun and games for tiny tots to school children to enjoy.

Presents to keep forever include thoughtful personalised gifts, tree decorations and stockings, together with family heirlooms.

Christmas is the one time of the year when everyone can over indulge a little.

At the fair you can sample a host of festive favourites before you buy – from delicious cheeses to Christmas puddings and much more in between, with a host of beers and spirits also on offer.

Fragrances, candles, pampering products and cookery gifts can also be found under the one roof. For more information on exhibitors and visiting the fair, visit www.festivegiftfair.co.uk



It wouldn't be the Festive Gift Fair without Father Christmas

HOW TO ENTER

THE Chronicle has teamed up with the organisers to offer 10 pairs of tickets for the show. To stand a chance of winning just answer this simple questions.

The Festive Gift Fair is celebrating which anniversary this year?

Send your answer with your name, address and daytime contact details to: Festive Gift Fair Competition, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date is October 18.

Usual Chronicle rules apply. Editor's decision is final.



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Ambleside gardeners are top of the plots



Marie Whitehouse, front, with from left, Bryan Plant, Lance Cartwright, Josie Bennett, Margaret Bytheway, June Davies, John Bennett, Sue Cartwright and Bob Bytheway

GREEN-FINGERED gardeners in the Black Country are celebrating after winning an In Bloom neighbourhood award for their community work.

Ambleside Allotments, near Stourbridge, which has 102 plots, won the level four award after judges looked at three areas of their community involvement, including with local school pupils and dementia patients.

The level four award classed as 'thriving' and was just below the level five award of 'outstanding'.

Six projects in the Black Country were among the entrants to the 'It's

Your Neighbourhood' initiative, which is part of Britain in Bloom.

Marie Whitehouse, lettings secretary of the allotments, said: "It was fantastic, and everyone was extremely pleased with the result, especially considering it was our first time of entering."

"The comments we received were really positive. Some were about our facilities, as we have a good range of on site facilities."

"We do a lot of work with local people and organisations and that impressed them too."

Gardening campaigns across the re-

gion picked up Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) awards for helping clean up their communities.

Mrs Whitehouse explained how the allotments aim to go one better next year to gain a prestigious level five award.

"We are most certainly entering again next year and are aiming for level five award," she said. It's onwards and upwards. We hope to extend some of projects. One lady also makes willow baskets, so there is a lot of variety. We even have beekeepers.

"All our plots are taken — it is very popular."

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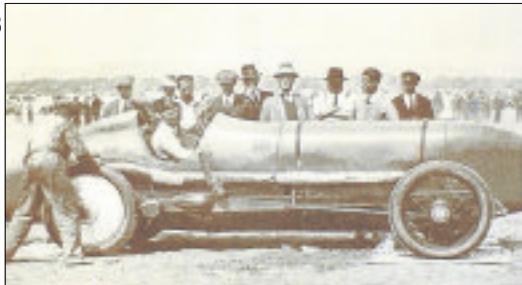
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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



The 350 hp Sunbeam on Pendine Sands, first car over 150 mph



The JCB DieselMax on Bonneville Salt Flats



Boulton & Paul wind tunnel model of the 350hp Sunbeam



George Eyston's Thunderbolt under construction



The 1000hp Sunbeam, first car over 200 mph

Producing records at a rate of knots

STAFFORDSHIRE may well be the greatest county in the world for producing Land Speed Record breaking cars.

The chief engineer at the Sunbeam Motor Car Co in Wolverhampton, Louis Coatalen, was a great advocate of racing, and it was his post-First World War racing car usually called the Sunbeam 350 hp which first broke the World Land Speed Record (LSR).

It was powered by a version of a V12 Sunbeam Manitou aero engine, and after the famous pilot Harry Hawker had crashed it at Brooklands, Malcolm Campbell took it to the Saltburn Speed Trials and set a world record time of 138.08 mph, which was not ratified because only stop watches were used for timing.

Boulton & Paul of Norwich then tested it in their wind tunnel and improved its aerodynamics with

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

a new cowl and streamlined tail. Campbell took it to Pendine Sands in September 1924, and set an official LSR of 146.16 mph. The following year he went back, and increased his record to 150.87 mph, the first car in the world to exceed 150mph.

Recently Campbell's grandson drove the newly restored 350 hp Sunbeam on Pendine, though at a more sedate pace.

In March 1926 Henry Seagrave, one of the other great names in speed record attempts, took the brand new Sunbeam Tiger racing car to Southport sands and raised the record to 152.33 mph.

This car, which had the smallest engine ever to hold the LSR, still exists in Utah, where it was driven at 159 mph in 1990.

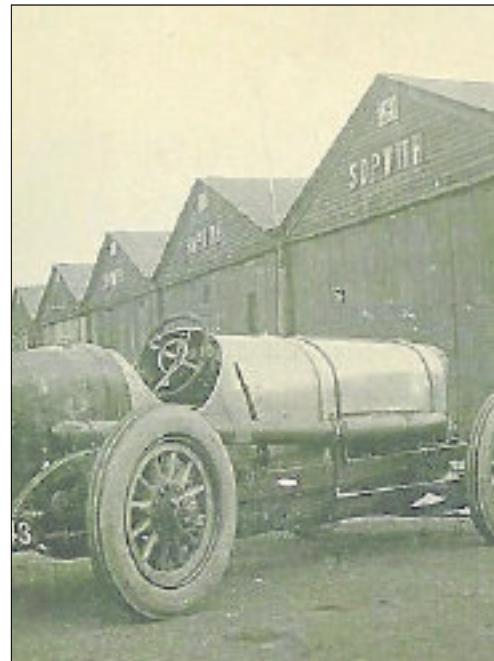
Next, Coatalen produced a purpose-built LSR car for Henry Seagrave to attempt to break the 200

mph barrier for the first time. Fitted with two 450 hp Sunbeam Matable aero-engines, the 1000hp Sunbeam, aka Slug, achieved 203.79 mph on Daytona Beach in March 1927.

The baton was now passed to Coseley, where Bean Cars built the Thunderbolt for George Eyston, powered by two 36.7 litre Rolls-Royce V12 engines.

With this car Eyston took the record at Bonneville Salt Flats, in November 1937 with a speed of 311.49 mph. The LSR changed hands several times over the next few months, with John Cobb in competition with Eyston, who raised it to 345.49 mph in August 1938, and finally 357.50 mph in September.

Staffordshire returned to the world of speed records in 2006, when Uttoxeter's JCB sent their specially commissioned JCB DieselMax, powered by two turbocharged JCB diesel engines to Bonneville, and broke the LSR for diesel powered-cars at 328.77 mph.



The 350hp Sunbeam at Brooklands before streamlining



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Bully send off for 420 village charity runners

HUNDREDS of runners were under Steve Bull's starting orders as record numbers took part in the annual Kinver and Enville 'two villages' 10k.

A total of 420 people took part on Sunday at Enville Hall, a new venue for the event in aid of Dudley charity Action Heart.

The run, over 10k and a family-friendly 2k course, is organised by Rotarians and was celebrating its tenth year.

All money raised by the participants is donated to Action Heart, with all costs covered by event sponsor BodyKraft.

BBC Midlands Today presenter Nick Owen was on hand to start the 2k runners before the Wolves legend took over for the main event.

Selfie

Roy Sanders, President of Kinver Rotary Club, said: "Steve was great with us. Really, he is just like your best mate."

"Anyone who wanted a selfie there was absolutely no problem. He was very approachable."

The run has previously started from Potter's Cross but organisers arranged a switch this year to Enville Hall, a working estate near Kinver that is still a family home.

The extra open space allowed the rotary club to bring in a bouncy castle and entertainment for children.

Graham Wildgoose, aged 52, from Wordsley, was among 18 runners taking part from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

"It was the first time I have done the event and I can tell you that is a real tough run," he said.

"As a club we did really well. Our man Ben Foster won the whole race."



Wolves legend Steve Bull starts the Kinver 10k race at Enville Hall, near Kinver



Richard Homer with sisters Anna and Lucy Hingley and Dave Stewart of Stourbridge

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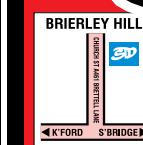
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Shrek's trek is one that cannot be ogre-rated

Shrek, The Musical
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
By Graeme Andrew

INGENIOUS costumes, amazing sets, belly laughs throughout and superb music – Shrek rules!

William Steig's story of an ogre who finds love and friendship in a bid to secure his swamp after being overrun by ousted fairytale creatures, has translated brilliantly from the big screen to the musical stage.

Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre resounded with roars of uncontrollable laughter as we were whisked along on the road to Duloc and beyond, as Shrek and Donkey follow their quest to rescue Princess Fiona from the clutches of the dragon.

With a host of new musical numbers to provide the narrative – showing off the cast's amazing vocal ability – the storyline closely followed the first Shrek film with a few hidden extras thrown in, to the delight of the crowd.

Hilarious

But the production really took off when Lord Farquaad was introduced into the proceedings. The staging problem of representing his, erm, 'limited' stature was dealt with ingeniously, with hilarious results. And canny old-hand theatre stalwart Gerard Carey absolutely makes the most of it, inducing tears of laughter with his antics.

Certainly the star of the show when it comes to the comedy aspect, there were many stand-out turns – Bronte Barbe as Fiona was top class with an amazing voice, and she too showed a deft comic touch.

Dean Chisnall, in the lead, is given the hardest job, trying to carry off a central acting role while wearing a no-doubt cumbersome Shrek suit and make-up, but he did well, showing real vulnerability when required, both in song and acting.

And Idriss Kargbo had a hard act to follow with Eddie Murphy's unforgettable performance as Donkey in



From left, Bronte Barbe, Idriss Kargbo and Dean Chisnall. Picture: Helen Maybanks

the movies, but he acquitted himself well, bringing a touch of Cat from Red Dwarf with him.

Ex-Eastender Nigel Harman (remember Dennis Rickman?), who won plaudits as Farquaad himself in the West End, is the director and keeps the action ticking over nicely.

Meanwhile musical director Dave Rose is obviously an accomplished vocal arranger, as harmonies were brilliantly executed and many of the characters proved their worth, bringing singing power to blow the audience away, in particular Christina Modestou with her soulful voice for Dragon. Mention must be made too on the staging, with swift scenery changes and amazing sets.

The supporting cast had to work hard taking on multiple roles and at no point did I find myself thinking we'd seen any of the faces in other guises.

There must have been some super-rapid changes, including three people dressed in black bringing to life Dragon, as a huge puppet, which was remarkably close in appearance to the Dreamworks' movie original.

It's an old cliche – something for everyone – but on this occasion, one that fits the bill.

And with performances running until Sunday, there is still a chance for fans to get their fill of fairytales, magic and laughter.

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Music and magic take centre stage at Grand

DES O'CONNOR, Derren Brown and West End musical Annie are among the diverse range of shows in Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre's new season.

On January 18, controversial comedian Jim Davidson will take to the stage with his new show Charlton Nil.

A celebration of the Chinese New Year and an audience with Stewart Lee - A Room With A Stew - are other highlights.

An Audience with Des O'Connor celebrates the showbusiness veteran in a new show looking back on his stage and screen career on April 23.

The Billy Fury Years traces the career of the rock 'n' roll pioneer on February 21, with the hip hop dance company presenting their new production, Into The Hoods: Remixed from February 25-27.

Judge

John Steinbeck classic Of Mice And Men, Fame - The Musical, The Snow Maiden, Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, Hello Kitty Live, Ireland's Call and A Grand Operetta Gala are all being staged in May.

The Black Country Night Out on April 1 features Jonny Cole, Dandy, The Fizzogs and The Ronaldos.

Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph leads the cast in Annie from April 4-9, in a role she is sharing with Strictly judge Craig Revel Horwood.

In his seventh live show since 2003, Derren Brown: Miracle, sees the multi-award winning acknowledged master of psychological illusion returns to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from April 11 to 16.

Billy Ocean, who has sold more than 30 million records during his career, will perform on May 13, while Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dream-



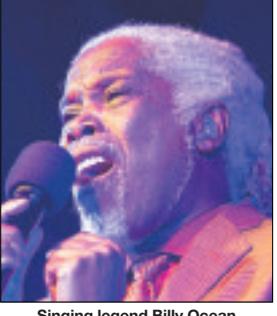
Illusionist Derren Brown returns



Comedian Stewart Lee



Veteran entertainer Des O'Connor



Singing legend Billy Ocean

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Peace ready to make Civic happy

PEACE will give fans one last chance to see them on their Happy People tour before re-treating to the country.

The band from Worcestershire will line up at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on Saturday. And then, they'll disappear for six months.

Frontman Harry Koisser says: "We're moving to a house in the middle of the countryside together and we're working on the new album immediately after the tour. So for the next six months we'll be working on the album."

"To be fair it's already all written we just need to record it. We want to rehearse it. Sometimes it takes a band five years to write a record and I'm just 'what are you doing?' It'll take me a week and a half to write a record."

Peace have had an incredible summer, playing Glastonbury for the second time as well as sets at Reading and Leeds.

"It's been fun. We started in Australia in March and it just seems like the longest summer and to be honest I just want winter."

The band have got celebrity followers with ex-England footballer Peter Crouch appearing in a video.

"Peter Crouch and Abby Clancy are big fans, which is really cool. I met Noel Gallagher in Scotland at T in the Park. We were introduced by someone and he was like 'Noel this is Harry' and he looked at me was like 'are you in a band or something?' and I said 'yeah I'm in a band called Peace' and he was like 'AHHHHH! PEACE!' And he said 'Craig Silvey'



Peace with Harry Koisser, centre front, are about to work on their third album

(producer of Peace's Happy People and Noel Gallagher's Chasing Yesterday) played me your album and it was amazing". Noely G had just given me a compliment."

Harry can't wait to play Wolverhampton. "Wolverhampton Civic is a big deal to be honest. This is the

last tour we're going to be doing for what's going to feel a really long time. We love Wolverhampton, with exception of two members of the entire touring party (including support bands Yak and Splash), everyone's from the West Midlands. It's going to be a big celebration."



Mandeep Dhillon (Meena) and Jalleh Alizadeh (Anita) rehearse for *Anita And Me*

Tale of Anita and Meera too

WHEN the world premiere of Meera Syal's much-loved *Anita and Me* is unveiled at Birmingham REP tomorrow night (Friday), it will feature the most unusual star.

The leading light won't be an actor, actress or, indeed, the writer Meera Syal. An impressive cast including Jalleh Alizadeh, Mandeep Dhillon, Ameet Chana and Ayesha Dharker won't take centre stage. Instead the star will be Wolverhampton, the grand old city where Meera was born and raised.

The multi-award-winning Syal wrote her poignant coming-of-age tale about Meema, the irreverent teenage daughter of the only Punjabi family in the mining village of Tollington.

Syal is delighted to be bringing her life in Wolverhampton to the stage. "Well I was born in New Cross Hospital, so it is indeed my birth town, right there on my passport."

Pinnacle

"I then lived in Willenhall briefly before we moved to Essington when I was a year old, so my childhood was spent in the countryside."

"However we did go to Wolverhampton for all our big shopping trips and the pinnacle of every visit was the Mander Centre."

Syal is best-known for TV creations on hits like *Goodness Gracious Me* and *The Kumars at No 42*. She wrote *Anita and Me* in 1997 and it was made into a film in 2002.

She can't wait for the curtain to go up on the theatrical version, at Birmingham REP until October 24.

"The Rep is of course the perfect place for this very Midland story and Tanika Gupta, who has adapted the book is not only a brilliant playwright but also a very dear friend, so it couldn't be in better hands."

It's strictly drag for Craig's musical role

LIFE'S become a bit of a drag for Simply Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood, who is putting on the pantyhose to play Miss Hannigan in the revival of the Tomorrow musical *Annie* at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The choreographer and director returns to the stage for a role he shares with Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph when Strictly duties intervene on a Saturday.

The musical will be at the Hippodrome from October 13 to 31 — see www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000 — and returns to the West Midlands in April at Wolverhampton Grand with Lesley Joseph dishing out the Hard Knock Life.

Double date with 1980s hitmakers

POWER ballad 80s stars T'Pau have two local gigs. The China In Your Hand outfit fronted by Carol Decker are at Robin 2 Bilton tomorrow (Fri), and are guests of Go West and Nik Kershaw at Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

Key gigs include Treetop Flyers at the Sunflower Lounge in central Brum tonight (Thu), the same night Metric unveil album *Pagans* In Vegas at The Institute. Check out Rae Morris on Sunday and soul singer KWABS on Monday at The Institute. Gengahr are at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Monday, when Du Blonde and Goodbye Lenin play the other room.

The eyes have it for a Grand favourite

THE Grand's favourite pantomime, Ceri Dupree, returns with a tribute to the divas in EYEcons, the female impersonator's new show on Tuesday at the Wolverhampton theatre.

The Upbeat Beatles revive memories of the Fab Four at the Lichfield Street venue on Wednesday and Ministry of Science Live bring explosive experiments for matinee and evening shows on Thursday.

The week of one-nighters is rounded off by Britain's Got Talent opera star Paul Potts in concert on October 16 and a saucy Evening of Burlesque on October 17. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

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A real hot shot – the Vhujon in Bewdley



The shared starter comes with three Indian snacks



The Murgh Chettinad was sweet and spicy with a rich and hot sauce



The classy interior of the Vhujon

This restaurant is real hot stuff

PUBS, hairdressers and curry houses have dominated the small town centre of Bewdley over the years.

At one point you were spoilt for choice if you wanted to go for a swift pint, cut and blow dry or a spicy dinner.

But as time has passed and the recession has taken hold, some businesses have struggled to stay afloat and have fallen by the wayside.

It seems residents have tightened their belts and the Indian restaurants have taken a hit. At one point there were four restaurants within a 100-metre stretch, and a balti.

The old favourite that has stood the test of time is still going strong. The cheap and cheerful one, which I've never gone to. The modern-trying-to-be-posh option which has recently shut up shop, as has the bring your own booze balti. But then there's the Vhujon, a contemporary Indian with a stylish interior and a mix of traditional and more unusual dishes.

It's still there, still popular and is always

By Lisa Williams

busy enough to need to book a table on a Friday or Saturday night. It has a lively buzz with a chatty atmosphere in an intimate setting. Its contemporary furnishings make it look clean and fresh, although it could probably do with a bit of attention if they decide to give it a revamp.

We didn't book. We didn't think it would be packed. But for a Wednesday evening there was a surprisingly steady flow of diners which made the atmosphere nice. Relaxed but vibrant.

Wine was ordered as we contemplated menu. There was a lot to take in – starters, chicken, lamb, beef, seafood and biryani dishes along with tandoori specialities, vegetarian, balti and traditional. There are also veggie accompaniments, rice, naans and other sundries.

Of course we ordered poppadoms, a necessity. They were lovely. Crispy, crunchy discs with a slight oiliness. The condiments were yummy too. As we were devouring them our starter to share arrived – Sabzi

Labra, a trio of Indian snacks a samosa, onion bhajee and mushroom pakora, all of which were tasty. Each had a good amount of filling and was nicely seasoned. The pakora batter was a bright, eyewatering, neon orange and could have done with a bit more mushroom stuffed inside its glowing coat.

Once these were done and dusted our mains were next. Feeling brave I'd gone for the Murgh Chettinad, described as hot and spicy chicken cooked with a mix of onion, crushed red chillies and cranberries.

Fiery

It was hot but not take-off-a-layer-of-skin-from-the-roof-of-your-mouth kind of blazing. It had an almost sweet and sour flavour with the plump, rich cranberries giving a sharp taste to the chicken and the fiery chilli adding the taste explosion. To counteract the fierce heat I'd gone for a rather plain but very fluffy and perfectly cooked boiled rice along with a wholesome chapati to mop up the sauce.

My friend had gone for a classic chicken Madras with mushroom pilau rice. The Madras, she said, was nice and spicy but not

at all greasy. We'd also decided on a tarka dhal as a side which tasted absolutely divine, a nice smooth texture with a whole some lentil flavour and some seasoning we couldn't quite put our fingers on. It complemented the curry and was aromatic without being too overpowering. The mushroom pilau was also a hit.

Neither of us went for the customary naan bread as they seemed too heavy and filling with all the food we had to get through.

There was no room for dessert, though they did have quite a vast selection mainly of pre-made ice cream pots along with a couple of more traditional options.

The staff were friendly and attentive without being intrusive, kept the table cleared and made sure we had everything we needed. It's a very efficient and well-oiled machine with fantastic food.

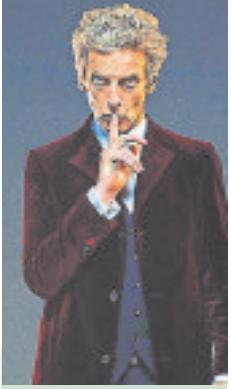
The bill came with After Eight mints, very 70s but welcome to take away the heat, along with a little pot of minuscule liquorice torpedoes, pretty reasonable at just shy of £45. We decided this is one restaurant that certainly curries favour.

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CHOICE
BBC1

Peter Capaldi
Doctor Who
(BBC1, 8.25pm)

The concluding edition of a two-part tale – told in reverse – takes the Time Lord to a remote Army outpost, where a fearsome alien warlord known as The Fisher King sets in motion a devious plan to ensure his own survival. As his plot takes effect, the ripples of his actions are felt across the universe in what seems to be an unstoppable chain of cause and reaction. With the consequences spiraling out of control, the Doctor seeks to bring the devastation to an end – but doing so might mean he has to do the unthinkable. Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman, with guests Paul Kaye and Peter Serafinowicz.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Football Focus. 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Live Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Qualifying. Suzi Perry introduces coverage from Sochi Autodrom (Start time 1.00pm). 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 3.25 The Great British Bake Off Class of 2014. (R) 4.25 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.10 BBC News. 5.20 Regional Programme. 5.30 Pointless Celebrities.

6.20 Strictly Come Dancing. Strictly is nothing if not glamorous, but there are a few extra sparkles this week as the contestants take their inspiration from the silver screen in a movie-themed show, with Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcie Bussell deciding who is a blockbuster and who is a box-office flop. As ever, Tess Daly introduces the twinkle-toed stars, while Claudia Winkleman chats to them after their performances – and watch out too for the professionals, who will no doubt be kicking off the show off with a spirit.

7.25 Doctor Who. The concluding part of the two-part tale is told in reverse – takes the Time Lord to a remote Army outpost, where a fearsome alien warlord known as The Fisher King sets in motion a devious plan to ensure his own survival. As his plot takes effect, the ripples of his actions are felt across the universe in what seems to be an unstoppable chain of cause and reaction. With the

consequences spiraling out of control, the Doctor seeks to bring the devastation to an end – but doing so might mean he has to do the unthinkable. Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman, with guests Paul Kaye and Peter Serafinowicz.

9.10 Casualty. Cal finds himself back on an even keel, but it remains to be seen whether things will improve for him from here.

10.00 The National Lottery Live. The all-important winning numbers, including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, are revealed by Gaby Roslin.

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. A hypnotist provides the entertainment at the triplets' baptism – and Agnes soon finds herself under his spell. (R)

11.00 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides. (2011) Captain Jack Sparrow's search for the fountain of youth leads to a battle with the dreaded pirate Blackbeard. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp; National Lottery Update.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 BBC News.

ITV

6.25 Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix – Practice One Replay. (R) 8.15 Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix – Practice Two Replay. (R) 9.55 Live Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix – Practice Three. 11.05 The Winter's Tale. Starring (R) 1.00 Great British Menu. (R) 12.30 Great British Menu. (R) 1.30 Great British Menu. (R) 4.00 Formula 1 Rewind. 3.30 Coast. (R) 4.00 World's Weirdest Events. (R) 5.00 Flot It! (R)

6.00 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. Si King and Dave Myers take DNA tests to find out if they have any Viking ancestry, before heading for Stockholm and taking a ferry to the island of Gotland. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Gardeners' World. Monty Don tackles seasonal jobs at Longmeadow, while in the third of her films about how plants work, Carol Klein investigates the science of stems. (R)

7.30 Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise. Life in the treacherous seas that surround the 4,000-mile coast of the South American wilderness, including rockhopper penguins, seals and orcas. Last in the series. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring enlists an unusual recruit to the platoon. Vintage comedy, starring John Le Mesurier. (R)

9.00 Ted Hughes: Stronger Than Death. Documentary examining how the poet's life shaped his work, including an interview with his daughter Frieda, as well as testimony from family members, friends and fellow writers.

10.30 Ol. Sarah Millican, Jason Manford and Bill Bailey join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of keeps. (R)

11.00 Cradle to Grave. Danny finds himself at a crossroads with the fabulous Miss Blundell – or as he is now allowed to call her. Louise – and Fred demonstrates his keen sense of hearing with money. (R)

11.30 Boy Meets Girl. As the party preparations get under way, Pam learns the truth about Judy, while Leo has a special question to ask her. But things do not turn out as expected. Last in the series. (R)

12.00 Film: Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil. (1997) 2.25 Film: Lady Caroline Lamb. (1972) 4.25 This Is BBC Two.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 BBC News.

CHANNEL 4

6.35 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.00 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Signed Starling Share a Story. (R) 6.50 Sooty. (D) 7.00 Sooty. 7.25 Adventure Time. 7.45 Marvel Avengers Assemble. 8.15 Hornid Henry. 8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 10.20 Countrywise. (R) 10.45 ITV News: Weather. 10.55 The X Factor. (R) 12.55 Downtown Abbey. (R) 2.00 Rugby World Cup. Scotland v Samoa (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 Rugby World Cup. Australia v Wales (Kick-off 4.45pm).

6.55 Regional Programme: Weather. 7.00 ITV News: Weather.

7.15 Rugby World Cup. England v Uruguay (Kick-off 8.00pm). John Inverdale presents coverage of the final match in Pool A, which takes place at Manchester City Stadium.

There has only been one previous meeting between these nations prior to this clash, which took place at the 2003 World Cup in Australia. That fixture was an incredibly one-sided affair, as England recorded an emphatic 11-13 triumph in what was also their concluding pool-stage match of that tournament. Anything other than an English win tonight will be seen as a huge surprise, and Steve Lawrence will be the executive producer to be as good an oven for the current side, given that the 2003 squad went on to lift the Webb Ellis Cup. With analysis from Jonny Wilkinson, Clive Woodward and Lawrence Dallaglio, and commentary by Nick Mullins and Ben Kay.

10.15 Through the Keyhole. Dave Berry, Michael Buuck and Ashley Roberts try to guess which mystery celebrities have invited Keith Lemon to poke through their personal belongings. Last in the series.

11.15 ITV News: Weather.

11.35 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Action from Scotland v Samoa, Australia v Wales and England v Uruguay, which took place at St James' Park, Twickenham and Manchester City Stadium respectively.

12.50 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofa. 3.00 Show Me the Telly. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

12.10 Sex Diaries: Gigolos. (R) 1.10 Josh Widdicombe: And Another Thing. (R) 2.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man: SU2C Special. (R) 3.00 Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 SpongeBob SquarePants. 10.35 Cowboy Builders. (R) 11.30 Cowboy Builders. (R) 1.30 Flim-flam. Columbus: Grant December (1989) starring Peter Falk. 3.25 Film: Columbus: Ashes to Ashes. (1998) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGoohan. 5.15 The Nightmare Next Door. (R)

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy get into a doorstop confrontation with a debtor who wants to prove her family business is bankrupt. However, when tempers flare Brian is assaulted and the agents call the police.

Elsewhere, Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner face evicting three properties owned by the same landlord in north London, and Brian and Delroy Anglin collect £2,000 debt owed to a vet in Kent. (R)

7.05 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flips. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, including a man filling up his pick-up truck with water and schoolboys learning how gravity affects balls.

8.00 Now That's Funny! Amusing Internet-sourced videos, including pleasure seekers getting more than they bargained for at an amusement park and people who make fooling about at work an art form.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football League Tonight. George Bassett presents extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from League One and League Two, including Sheffield United v Rochdale, Walsall v Burton Albion, Cambridge United v Portsmouth and Oxford United v AFC Wimbledon. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points and interviews with a selection of players and managers. Former Sunderland left-back Michael Gray provides analysis in the studio.

10.00 Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. Countdown of the most memorable moments from TV talent shows. (R)

12.50 The Gadget Show. (R) 1.40 SuperCasino. 3.10 The Yorkshire Vet. (R) 4.00 Body Donors. (R)

DIGITAL
BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear 8.05 Don't Tell the Bride 9.05 Russell Howard's Good News 9.30 Film: Tropic Thunder (2008) 11.15 Family Guy 1.25 Together 1.55 Asian Provocateur 2.25 Russell Howard's Good News 2.55 Don't Tell the Bride 3.55 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth

4.00 Close

BBC Four

7.00 Three Men Go to Scotland 8.00 Burma, My Father and the Forgotten Army 9.00 Beck: The Hospital Murders 10.25 Spike Milligan: Love, Light and Peace 11.55 Top of the Pops: 1980 12.30 Music and Misfits: The Story of Indie 1.30 Indie Classics at the BBC 2.30 Tales from the Tour Bus: Rock 'n' Roll on the Road 3.30 Close

ITV2

11.00 The Cube 12.05 Tricked 1.05 The Hot Desk: Aleasha Dixon 1.20 The X Factor 3.20 Adele 4.10 Factor 4.20 Cabin Pressure 4.30 The Queen's Bees (1992) 7.05 Film: She's the Man (2006)

9.10 Film: American Pie: The Wedding (2003) 11.15 Celebrity Juice 12.05 The Almost Impossibly Gashomey 1.05 Release the Hounds 1.55 Tricked 2.45 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 3.00 Teleshopping

ITV3

12.15 Inspector Morse 2.30 Film: Emma (1996) 4.55 Lewis 6.55 Doc Martin 8.00 Midsummers Murders 10.00 Lewis 12.05 Agatha Christie's Marple 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Film: Battle of the Bulge 1.45 Film: Dunkirk (2017) 5.45 Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) 7.30 Storage Wars: New York 8.00 Storage Wars: 9.00 Storage Wars: New York 9.25 River Monsters 10.30 Euro 2016 Qualifier Highlights 12.00 Film: The Big Lebowski (1998) 2.20 Nitro Circus 3.00 Teleshopping

Film4

1.00 Film: Planet 51 (2009) 2.45 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 3.00 The Big Bang Theory 5.00 Rude(ish) Tube 5.05 Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) 7.30 Storage Wars: New York 8.00 Storage Wars: 9.00 Storage Wars: New York 9.25 River Monsters 10.30 Euro 2016 Qualifier Highlights 12.00 Film: The Big Lebowski (1998) 2.20 Nitro Circus 3.00 Teleshopping

Film5

11.00 Mysterious Island (1961) 1.00 We Bought a Zoo (2011) 3.35 Iron Man (2008) 6.05 The Karate Kid (2010) 9.00 Taken 2 (2012) 10.50 Crimson Peak – Exclusive Preview 10.55 Hellboy (2004)

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CHOICE



Claire Danes

Homeland
(Channel 4, 9pm)

One of the most talked about American dramas of recent years is back for a new run, and life seems a little easier for Homeland's bipolar heroine Carrie Mathison (Claire Danes). When we first met her in 2012, she was trying to ascertain whether Nicholas Brody, the US soldier and POW, had been turned by al-Qaeda and was planning an atrocity on American soil. When we catch up with her, it's two years since the on/off CIA officer's tenure as Islamabad station chief. Series five sees her in Berlin, estranged from the CIA and employed as a German philanthropist's head of security. In episode one, Carrie's peace is threatened when a request from her boss forces her back towards the dangerous world she left behind.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live.
- 11.00 Live Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix. **2.15** Sunday Politics. **3.20** The Great British Bake Off: The Final. (R) **4.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.50** Points of View. **5.05** Lifeline. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News.
- 6.10 Regional Programme.
- 6.15 **Countryside**. Matt Baker joins wildlife photographer Gary Lomas in recording the annual red deer rut in Cheshire's Lyme Park, and meets a local action who gave up showbusiness to become a National Trust Ranger. Helen Shenton goes looking for rare bats and visits a family who make bespoke gin. Tom Heap investigates mental health issues in the farming community. James Wong makes quince jelly and Adam Henson reveals what makes Dartmoor sheep and ponies special. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the results show, as the judges choose between the two couples with the lowest scores.
- 8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the team visit the Royal William Yard in Plymouth, where they cast their eyes over Lord Nelson's doorknobs, and a diamond necklace the length of a skiptape.
- 9.00 **From Darkness**. Another body is discovered, which seems to have been left as a message for Claire. Norrie feels he and Claire are being dragged apart, as personal and professional issues collide.
- 10.00 **BBC News**.
- 10.20 Regional Programme.
- 10.30 **Sir Alex Ferguson: Secrets of Success**. Former BBC Political Editor Nick Robinson interviews the retired Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, who shares his perspectives on motivation, discipline and leadership.
- 11.30 **Rooney: The Man Behind the Goals**. Gary Lineker presents a profile of England's all-time leading scorer, talking to the Manchester United striker, his family and a host of people from the world of football. (R)
- 12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.45 **The Instant Gardener**. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **13.00** What's Next? Ahead. **14.00** Film: How the West Was Won. (1962) **2.30** Flory! Trade Secrets. (R) **4.00** The Railway: Keeping Britain on Track. (R) **5.00** Rugby League: Super League Grand Final Highlights.
- 6.00 **Don't Panic - How to End Poverty in 15 Years**. Professor Hans Rosling explores the target of eradicating worldwide poverty by looking at dramatic human stories, as well as examining data on recent global progress. (R)
- 7.00 **Licence to Thrill - Paul Hollywood Meets Aston Martin**. The Great British Bake Off's Paul Hollywood indulges his passion for Aston Martin cars, test-driving various models, and making an attempt to join one of Aston's racing teams. (R)
- 8.00 **Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish**. New series. Ben Fogle presents a fishing challenge in which anglers test their skill in the world's most inhospitable areas. The contestants fish the freezing waters of Iceland.
- 9.00 **Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF**. New series. Documentary following the Red Arrows, the RAF's aerobatics display team through a summer display season, including an ambitious performance over Buckingham Palace.
- 10.00 **Family Guy**. Brian goes to obedience classes.
- 10.25 **Family Guy**. Meg becomes infatuated with a popular boy at school.
- 10.45 **Family Guy**. Peter tells the story of Christmas – with a twist.
- 11.05 **Top Coppers**. Mahogany meets one of his childhood heroes when the star of a hit sci-fi show receives death threats, and Rust decides to chase fame and fortune by becoming an actor. Previously seen on BBC Three.
- 11.35 **Film: Chances Are**. (1989) A man reincarnated without memories of the past starts to recall his former life when he unwittingly meets his daughter. Romantic comedy, with Cybill Shepherd.
- 12.20 **Sign Zone: Countryside**. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This is BBC Two.

ITV

- 6.00 **ITV: Bottom Knocker Street**. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Tree Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Starling: Share & Stamp. (R) **6.50** Soddy. (R) **7.05** Five Hooks. (R) **7.15** The Last Letter Chronicles. **7.45** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.00** Horrible Science. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Rugby World Cup. Argentina v Namibia (Kick-off 12.00pm). **2.10** Rugby World Cup, Italy v Romania (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.20** Rugby World Cup. France v Ireland (Kick-off 4.45pm).
- 6.50 **Regional Programme**; Weather.
- 6.55 **ITV News**: Weather.
- 7.00 **The X Factor**. Olly Murs and Caroline Flack present the climax of the Six Chair Challenge. Judges Rita Ora, Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Nick Grimshaw must each select six acts to take a place in the live shows. However, contestants who put in an impressive performance are not out of the woods, as the judges have the freedom to change their minds at any point in the show.
- 9.00 **Downton Abbey**. Tom and Sybbie return to Downton, but the peace is disrupted by an unexpected visit from an old friend. Baxter is faced with a dilemma after an encounter with Sergeant Willis, while Thomas is forced to sell all his son's shoes. Anna goes to London with Mary to deal with a crisis, while her secrets seem likely to be exposed. Daisy is not happy with Cora, and Mary has an admirer.
- 10.00 **ITV News**: Weather.
- 10.15 **Rugby World Cup Highlights**. Martin Bayfield presents action from the final four pool-stage matches, which were France v Ireland, Argentina v Namibia, Italy v Romania and USA v Japan.
- 11.15 **Perspectives: In Charie Chaplin's Footsteps**. Monty Python star Terry Jones, a long-time fan of silent comedy, offers a personal appraisal of the man who arguably changed the face of film comedy in the 1920s. (R)
- 12.15 **Murder, She Wrote**. (R) **1.15** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.45** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.20 **How I Met Your Mother**. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Fraiser. (R) **9.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.30** Strictly Ballroom. **12.30** Film: Step Up. (2010) Dance drama sequel, starring Rick Malambri. **2.35** Film: Lemon Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events. (2004) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. **4.40** A Place in the Sun. Winter Sun. **5.40** Homes by the Sea. (R)
- 6.35 **Channel 4 News**.
- 7.00 **Film: Men in Black 3**. (2012) An alien criminal escapes from a prison on the moon and goes back in time on a mission of revenge, changing the course of history. Agent K of the top-secret Earth defence organisation follows him back to 1969, and joins forces with a younger version of his mentor. Agent K sets things right. Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith, Josh Brolin and Tommy Lee Jones. Edited for language and violence.
- 9.00 **Homeland**. New series. Having left the CIA, Carrie tries to get on with her new life in Berlin but realises she is now the one who is a target and no longer has Saul and Quinn to rely on. Thriller, starring Claire Danes.
- 10.00 **Experimental**. Tim Shaw builds a giant catapult to fire buddy out of and a propelled swivel chair. The duo also head to Georgia to carry out a dangerous stunt testing the science of acceleration.
- 11.05 **Film: Predators**. (2010) Hardened fighters from across the globe are taken to an alien jungle planet to become prey in a big-game hunt. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Adrien Brody and Topher Grace.
- 1.00 **Film: Animal Kingdom**. (2010) An orphaned teenager is adopted into his grandmother's criminal family and must decide whether to leave. Crime thrillers with James Frecheville and Guy Pearce. **2.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Fifteen to One. Sandi Toksvig hosts the general knowledge quiz, in which 15 contestants test themselves against their rivals. (R) **5.25** 1001 Things You Should Know. Journalist and presenter Jon Snow and interior designer Celia Sawyer are among the experts challenging three more contestants. Presented by Sandi Toksvig. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. Barney seduces Marshall's professor. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 **Milkshake!**: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. **6.10** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.30** Sesame Street. **7.45** Wonder Pets. (R) **8.15** Zazzy and Quack. (R) **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **8.45** Jolly Jamm. (R) **8.50** LazTown. (R) **9.15** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.45** SpongeBob SquarePants.
- 10.20 **Access**. **10.25** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.25** Film: Hoodwinked. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Anne Hathaway. **12.55** Film: Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure. (2009) Animated adventure, with the voice of Mae Whitman. **2.30** Film: Tuck Everlasting. (2002) Disney fantasy, with Alexis Bledel. **4.10** Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement. (2004) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway.
- 6.20 **5 News Weekend**.
- 6.25 **Film: The Count of Monte Cristo**. (2002) A sailor falls foul of the schemes of his so-called closest friend, and ends up languishing in prison for 13 years, wrongly accused of treason. After spending his sentence plotting revenge on the traitor, he eventually manages to escape and poses as a wealthy nobleman to gain access to his target. Swashbuckling adventure based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas, starring Jim Caviezel, Guy Pearce, Richard Harris and Dame Helen Mirren.
- 9.00 **Film: Parker**. (2013) Premiere. A thin, betrayed and left for dead by his wife, a crime novelist, he plans to buy a house in the area. A real-estate agent sees through the disguise and helps him get even by stealing the gems from his traitorous gang. Action thriller, with Jason Statham and Jennifer Lopez. Edited for language.
- 11.25 **Film: Layer Cake**. (2004) A cocaine dealer planning to go straight is sent to find a mobster's drug-addicted daughter and a stolen shipment of Ecstasy. Crime thriller, with Daniel Craig and Michael Gambon.
- 1.25 **SuperCasino**. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Super Skyscrapers: Building London's Cheesegrater. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00 Formula 1 – Russian Grand Prix Highlights. **8.00** Top Gear 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News. **10.00** Film: Scream (1996) **11.45** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **12.50** Family Guy **1.10** Together **1.40** Asian Provocateur **2.10** KKK: The Fight for White Supremacy **3.10** Russell Howard's Good News **3.40** Dead Air **4.00** Close
- BBC Four**
- 7.00 The Search for Life: The Drake Equation **8.00** Simon Armitage in Conversation with Tony Harrison **9.00** Return to Larkhall **10.00** The Sky at Night **11.00** The Real Rock: The Meaning of Sophie Lancaster **11.15** Twin Sisters: A World Apart **12.15** Film: Stoogesville Buck – The Real Horse Whisperer (2011) **2.00** Simon Armitage in Conversation with Tony Harrison **4.00** Black Roses: The Killing of Sophie Lancaster **3.20** Close
- ITV3**
- 11.45 The Almost Impossible Gameshow **12.45** Catchphrase **1.30** The Very Best of You've Been Framed! **2.35** Film: Stormbreaker (2006) **4.25** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.15** Film: Hulk (2003) **9.00** The X Factor **10.00** Film: Casino Royale (2006) **12.55** Viral Tap **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.00** Keshia: The Hot Desk **2.10** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
- ITV4**
- 12.25 Lewis **2.25** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.25** Film: The Prince and the Showgirl (1957) **6.50** Foyle's War **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.35** Film: Death Becomes Her (1992) **1.35** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
- E4**
- 2.20 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.30** Couples Come Dine with Me **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **11.20** The Inbetweeners **12.30** The IT Crowd **1.35** Rude Tube **2.35** Rules of Engagement **3.10** 2 Broke Girls **5.40** Film4
- 11.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) **1.00** Anastasia (1997) **2.55** Pride and Prejudice (2005) **5.25** Evolution (2001) **7.25** The Animal (2001) **9.00** Apocalypse (2006) **11.40** Joy Ride (2001) **1.40** Dogtooth (2009) **3.40** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

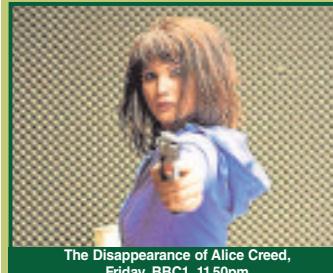
The Good Witch's Gift, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Cassandra Nightingale's fiance proposes and they decide to get married at Christmas – leaving very little time to prepare for the big day. However, their marriage is threatened when a face from the groom's past arrives in town. Family drama sequel, starring Catherine Bell, Chris Potter and Laura Bertram. (2010)

TUESDAY

Good Witch, Bad Witch, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Cassandra Nightingale runs for mayor and considers starting a family, while also receiving a visit from her estranged niece. While seemingly helpful and friendly, the newfound relative is secretly jealous of Cassandra's perfect life and seeks to turn her friends against her. Fourth in the drama series, starring Catherine Bell and Matthew Knight. (2011)

WEDNESDAY

Client Seduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A lawyer who has made her career defending wealthy clients decides to perform an act of charity by representing a homeless man accused of murder. However, as the case gets under way, she realises the defendant is guilty, and that he is seducing her daughter as part of a plot to avoid justice. Thriller, starring Ally Sheedy and Rhys Ward. (2014)



The Disappearance of Alice Creed, Friday, BBC1, 11.50pm

THURSDAY

Tombstone, Channel 5, 10pm
Renowned marshal Wyatt Earp becomes a professional gambler in the town of Tombstone, but is forced out of his retirement to take on a gang of hellraising villains no one else is prepared to stand up to. Joining forces with his brothers and drunken gunslinger Doc Holliday, he gets ready to face them in a showdown at the OK Corral. Western, starring Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer and Bill Paxton. (1993)

FRIDAY

The Disappearance of Alice Creed, BBC1, 11.50pm
Two criminals kidnap the daughter of a wealthy family, with the intention of demanding a ransom. However, the hostage is not the helpless victim she appears. Thriller, with Gemma Arterton, Eddie Marsan and Martin Compston. (2009)

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River banks on success in his latest murder case

Given the BBC's passion for Euro thrillers such as Spiral, The Killing and Wallander, it was inevitable that we'd see more dramas mixed the best talent from here and there.

And when it comes to A-list Scandinavian talent, you don't get much better than Stellan Skarsgård.

Okay, some of his dad dancing in Mamma Mia may have been questionable, but his string of credits, from Good Will Hunting and the US version of Girl With The Dragon Tattoo have helped make him one of Hollywood's go-to guys when searching for Swedish talent.

Here he plays John River, a brilliant but troubled police officer, while Nicola Walker almost steals the show as his late colleague, Detective Sergeant Jackie 'Stevie' Stevenson, a lover of cheesy music and fast food.

When a murder suspect jumps to his death while being pursued by River, the pressure and scrutiny that surrounds him escalates fast.

As the investigation into Stevie's murder begins to reveal her deepest

secrets, our hero has to question everything he thought he knew about his friend.

Stellan admits it's not the easiest of dramas to sum up.

"If it was a normal TV series it would be rather easy to tell you why I'm in it," he explains. "You could say it's a crime story on the surface, but it's really more about a person's breakdown or his psychological status."

All brilliant TV detectives need a gimmick, whether it's Fitz's gambling or Ironside's wheelchair, and John River's selling point is his fractured mental state.

"We've heard a lot about people that hear voices, but he actually sees those people as well that he's talking to, and very often it's victims of crime that pop up and have conversations with him. They're not like ghosts, they're his own creations."

Penning by acclaimed writer Abi Morgan, one of the brains behind Shame, The Iron Lady, and new movie Suffragette, her script was a

key reason the actor signed up.

"I took the job for her writing because it doesn't look like anything else," explains Stellan. "Her writing is not linear. It's more filled with odd impulses."

"It throws you from one thought to another thought in a less organised way, and to me that resembles life much more than a lot of the writing you get which is extremely structured and polished and is by the book of How To Write a Screenplay."

Obviously cast and crew are hoping the series proves a hit, but as four of Skarsgård's recent films grossed more than \$4 billion between them, and with more helpings of Thor and Avengers on the way, finding time to make series two might be a little tricky.

However, with a fine supporting cast, including Adeel Akhtar as Detective Sergeant Ira King; Lesley Manville as Chief Inspector Christie Read, and Eddie Marsan as a killer who harasses the eponymous crime buster, hopefully this is one River that will run and run.



Stellan Skarsgård stars in River, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The Great British Bake Off - Masterclass
BBC2, 7pm

If you're one of the millions of viewers who have spent the past few weeks marvelling over The Great British Bake Off, then the likes of Nadiya Jamir Hussain, Tamal Ray and Ian Cumming have become minor yet worthy TV stars. Chances are their skills in the GBBO tent may have inspired you to dig out that dusty cake tin and have a go at your own adventures in the kitchen. Of course, inspiration is one thing, but good, solid guidance doesn't hurt either, and that's where this series comes in handy. Proving they know what they're talking about, no-nonsense judges Paul Hollywood (aka 'the male judge') and Mary Berry take over the tent to demonstrate how the contest's challenges should be done with a series of tutorials.

TUESDAY

Girls to Men
Channel 4, 10pm

Channel 4's Born in the Wrong Body strand, which explores the lives of young transgender people in Britain and America, continues. This time, the spotlight falls on the experiences of three young Britons, who have opted to undergo extraordinary surgical procedures to fulfil their dreams of living as

men. Making use of unprecedented access to the operating theatre, the film outlines the surgeons remove breasts and craft functioning penises for their patients. The documentary also explores the confident online community of young trans men, who have started to bare all on social media.

WEDNESDAY
The Apprentice
BBC1, 9pm

New series. Alan Sugar begins his 11th search for a new business partner, offering the hopefuls a £250,000 investment in a new start-up company. This year, Claude Littner replaces Nick Hewer as Lord Sugar's new advisor and 'eyes and ears' alongside Karen Brady. As usual, the millionaire gives the candidates his introductory pep talk, after which the entrepreneurs are divided into teams for the first task – selling two fish-based products to hungry Londoners. The pressure to perform is on, and the contestants are reminded of just how unforgiving the process is when they arrive in the boardroom, where the challenge is picked apart and one candidate is fired.

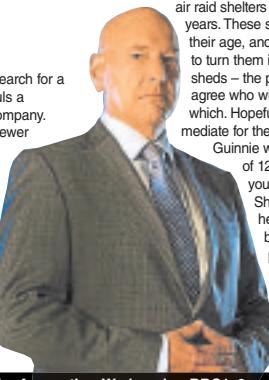
THURSDAY

George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
Channel 4, 8pm

Two sheds have got to be better than one, right? Well, not for a couple featured in this week's programme. Their garden has been the home of two air raid shelters for more than 70 years. These structures are showing their age, and now the owners want to turn them into rather swanky

sheds – the problem is, they can't agree who will take charge of which. Hopefully George can mediate for them. Also appearing is Guinnie who, at the tender age of 12, is the series' youngest-ever designer. She's getting help from her builder dad to turn a book-based school project into a reality.

Meanwhile, master craftsman Will Hardie visits a beach hut worth £1 million and continues work on his and George's rather more modest project; George himself takes another trip to Germany to see how a water tower has been turned into a luxury home.



The Apprentice, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

modest project; George himself takes another trip to Germany to see how a water tower has been turned into a luxury home.

FRIDAY

TFI Friday
Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Chris Evans follows up his one-off edition aired in June, with the first of a brand new series of the lively entertainment show mixing music and chat with stunts and skits, proving that the farewell-to-all-that nature of the previous offering was a little premature. Despite ongoing commitments to Radio 2 and now BBC Two's Top Gear, the host has managed to find time to schedule eight new programmes into his diary, and it will be interesting to see whether the unpredictable, wild nature of the former incarnation can be replicated on an ongoing basis.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories

ITV, 9pm
Warwick Davis, who stands at 3ft 6, talks to Piers about his life and career, which includes supporting roles in both the Harry Potter and Star Wars films. The actor and presenter opens up about the struggles he and his wife Sam faced when starting a family.

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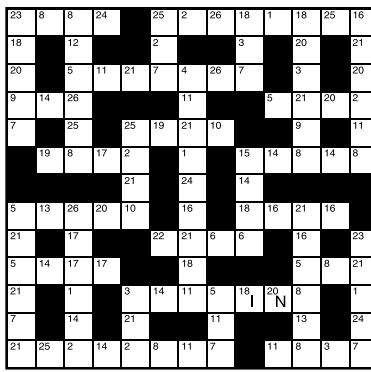
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BRAIN GYM No.346

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	G	F	Q	S	H	W	Y	E	O	V	A	L

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	Z	C	M	X	B	I	N	R	T	J	U	P

Quiz

- In which year did The Independent newspaper launch in the UK?
- Who was Australian P.M. from 1949-66?
- Who was Foreign Secretary in the 1974-6 Wilson government?
- Which composer wrote the ballet *Billy The Kid*?
- Which dwarf planet was discovered in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh?
- Who was the Roman goddess of the dawn?
- Between which two islands is the Denmark Strait?
- What is the Arabian camel also known as?
- Which Italian modern art movement was initiated by Marinetti?
- Who wrote the novel Washington Square?

Double Crossword

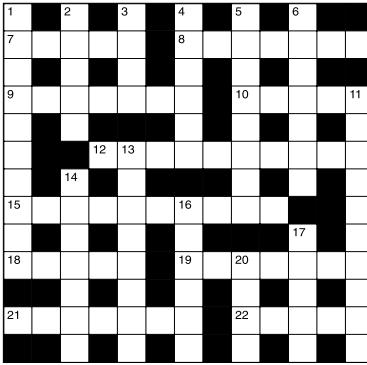
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:
Across

- To erect or bring to the ground, we hear (5)
- Away from home to view the prospect (7)
- Runner allowed in different heat (7)
- Military body - almost a dead one! (5)
- Up-to-date style by the Royal Navy (6)
- Cattle drover - or store-keeper? (8)
- It's not wrong to mete out punishment (7)
- Thirsty result of revising coal income (10)
- 15 & 18 Ac. Do they sell fingers for watches? (6-4,5)
- See 15 Across
- Keeping your head down for immersion (7)
- Business enterprise produces anxiety (7)
- Indicate the policeman's duty (5)

Down

- Radio engagements for extensive groups of actors (10)
- Having drunk too much in need of relaxation? (5)
- By Jove, she'll be found among the bearers! (4)
- Up-to-date style by the Royal Navy (6)
- Cattle drover - or store-keeper? (8)
- It's not wrong to mete out punishment (7)
- What a monopolistic fishmonger has! (4,6)
- Car isn't used when container is upset (8)
- The tale of a nobleman, we hear (7)
- Not revealing chastisement (6)
- I'm twice returning to the capital of China to take off (5)
- Successfully handle clerical vestment (4)



Quick Clues:

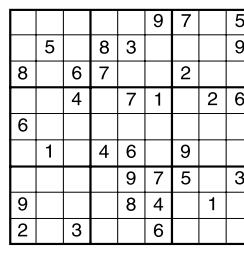
Across

- Compel (5)
- Fatty (7)
- Specimen (7)
- Boundary (5)
- Nonconformity (10)
- Star-gazer (10)
- Spare (5)
- Good health (7)
- Food principle (7)
- Position (5)

Down

- Womanish (10)
- Big (5)
- Aid (4)
- Bets (6)
- Force out (8)
- Note (7)
- Intruder (10)
- Solitary (8)
- Post (7)
- Affront (6)
- Kingly (5)
- Kind (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	6	8	3	4	2	1	7	5
7	3	5	9	1	8	2	6	4
1	4	2	6	7	5	8	9	3
3	9	4	5	8	7	6	2	1
8	2	1	7	9	6	3	4	5
6	7	2	4	6	8	9	1	3
4	5	9	8	1	7	3	2	6
6	7	3	4	2	9	5	1	8
2	8	1	7	5	3	9	4	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Conspires; 8 Ram; 9 Drop of water; 11 Pattern; 12 Rinse; 13 Reform; 15 Serene; 17 Irons; 18 Instead; 20 Night-porter; 22 Odd; 23 Solitaire. Down: 2 Oar; 3 Phone; 4 Rowing; 5 Set free; 6 Arrangement; 7 In the lead; 10 Out of bounds; 11 Perdition; 14 Resigns; 16 Stolt; 18 Stooge; 19 Repercussions; 21 Breather; 22 Errant; 23 United; 15 Renown; 17 Draws; 18 Elevate; 20 Earmessness; 22 Sin; 23 Determine. Down: 2 Ode; 3 Tract; 4 Heeded; 5 Precede; 6 Deteriorate; 7 Coherence; 10 Predicament; 11 Boundless; 14 Ensured; 16 Revert; 19 Enter; 21 Son.

Thinking space



star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £159.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.



Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Extended and detached residence is impressive



A SPACIOUS residence, 199 Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley has been improved and extended and is for sale through Skitts at £275,000.

With gas central heating, double glazing with coloured glass windows and doors it has three reception rooms plus a garden room, a fitted kitchen with a built-in double oven, hob and cooker hood and dishwasher, plus a laundrette with a useful cloak room.

On the first floor are three double bedrooms, a bathroom with separate bath and shower cubicle and stairs leading to the useful attic room.

There is off-road parking for numerous vehicles with gated access leading to two separate garages, a garden room, garden store and delightful garden. The property also has stunning panoramic views to the rear.

Contact Skitts on 01902 686868 or visit the website at www.skitts.net



Open day chance to view stunning home

An open day is being held at 44 St James's Road, Dudley, on Saturday with interested parties invited to make an appointment.

This impressive and exceptionally spacious double-fronted traditional detached family residence is for sale through Connells at £399,999.

There is also a generous 20ft living room, breakfast kitchen fitted with a vast range of units and integrated appliances and an island, stable door to a charming formal dining room, stairs to a galleried landing with French doors to a large roof terrace with far-reaching views, four double bedrooms, a luxury bathroom, 30ft garage/utility room and a large enclosed rear garden. To book a viewing slot contact (01384) 214770.



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your home, your location

Extended three-bedroom house with kitchen diner



AN extended three-bedroomed family home in Eggington Road, Stourbridge, comes with a re-fitted kitchen/dining area and a rear garden.

Also with a garage and off-road parking for several cars, it is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £329,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall with original parquet flooring, a WC, a lounge with a diamond shaped feature window, leaded bay window and a feature fireplace. There is a sitting room with wooden floor and French doors, an integrated dishwasher, washing machine, tumble dryer, cooker space, ceramic flooring.

Bedroom one has wardrobes, there are two further bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom with a shower over bath and heated towel rail.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit www.hicksHadley.com



Traditional 1930s home is available

A FULLY renovated traditional 1930s home is available immediately with no upward chain in Wolverhampton Road, Kidderminster.

An ideal family home, it is for sale at offers over £170,000 through Your Move.

Refurbished to a high standard it has an entrance hall with a huge living room and dining/kitchen off with a further door off the kitchen leading to a generous pantry area.

There is also a large master bedroom with an en suite, two further single bedrooms and a family bathroom.

There is a landscaped rear garden and a long block-paved driveway.

For further information call 01905 772084 or visit the website at www.yourmove.co.uk



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2 Bedroom Semi Detached House
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25 Scotts Green Close, Dudley
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Guide: £90,000 plus



75 Stourbridge Road, Hagley
4 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £174,000 - £178,000



96 Blackacre Road, Dudley
6 Bedrommed Mid Terraced Property
Guide: £58,000 - £62,000



8 Mears Coppice, Brierley Hill
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Cottage
Guide: £144,000 - £148,000



Land Off Dudley Road West, Tividale
Parcel of Freehold Land Which Extends To
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Guide: £2,000 - £3,000

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PROPERTY AUCTION - 20th OCTOBER 2015



**638 PARKFIELD ROAD
PARKFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
WV4 6EH**

Popular location, Mid Terraced, canopy Porch, Two Reception, large Rear Hall, Cellar, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, large Bathroom, Gas CH., some Double Glazing. Outside: Two Stores, long garden EPC E54

Guide: £60,000 / £65,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9th & 10th
OCTOBER @ 10.30 a.m.**



**3 CASTLECROFT ROAD
BILSTON, WV14 6PQ**

Investment – current income £5,700 p.a.x. Conveniently situated Semi-Detached, Double Glazing, Gas CH, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Rear Hall, fitted Cloakroom Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, enclosed Rear Garden EPC E45

Guide: £70,000 / £75,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & MONDAY, 9th & 12th
OCTOBER @ 10.00 a.m.**



**86 CASTLECROFT ROAD
CASTLECROFT, WOLVERHAMPTON,
WV3 8DA**

Good residential area, well appointed Bungalow, Gas CH Porch, Hall, 22ft Lounge, fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom Store, ample Parking & Garage, lovely 100ft Rear Garden EPC D60

Guide: £113,000 / £118,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9th & 10th
OCTOBER @ 11.15 a.m.**



**3 PRIESTFIELD STREET
BILSTON, WV14 ONE**

Investment – Current income £6,300 p.a.x. Large Mid Terraced in ideal location Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Rear Hall, WC & Store Three double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, attractive Rear Garden EPC TBA

Guide: £70,000 / £75,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & MONDAY, 9th & 12th
OCTOBER @ 10.45 a.m.**



**14 GLOUCESTER STREET
WOLVERHAMPTON, WV6 0PT**

Well located Mid Terraced, Two Reception, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two double Bedrooms, Gas CH system, Double Glazing EPC TBA

Guide: £48,000 / £53,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9th & 10th
OCTOBER @ 12.00 noon**



**'CHAPEL COTTAGE'
OLD STOWHEATH LANE, WV1 2QN**

Character Detached House with large grounds, outbuildings & Garage Double Glazing, Gas Heating, Two Reception, Kitchen, Sun Lounge Two Bedrooms, Bathroom – ample scope to extend STPP EPC E43

Guide: £115,000 / £120,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & MONDAY, 9th & 12th
OCTOBER @ 11.30 a.m.**



**41 STRATTON STREET
WOLVERHAMPTON, WV10 9AJ**

Exceptionally well presented End Terraced Home Two Reception, well appointed Kitchen, Rear Hall, large Bathroom, Three Bedrooms Private Garden, Double Glazing, Gas CH EPC D62

Guide: £59,000 / £64,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9th & 10th
OCTOBER @ 12.45 p.m.**



**38 STUBBS ROAD, PENN FIELDS,
WOLVERHAMPTON, WV3 7DJ**

Investment Advised Current income £22,735 p.a. Potential when fully let £34,747 p.a. Large Period House offering Nine Flats – six let – three vacant – ample off-road parking and lovely rear garden, well presented throughout. EPC G19

Guide: £365,000 / £375,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & MONDAY, 9th & 12th
OCTOBER @ 12.30 p.m.**

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to conditions and prior sale)

On TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2015 @ 6.30 p.m.

At the Ramada Park Hall Hotel, Park Drive, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, WV4 5AJ

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VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

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Brierley Hill
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Sedgley
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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



WORDSELEY, Kirkpatrick Drive

Forming part of this stylish, recently constructed modern development, this SUPERB FOUR BEDROOM FAMILY HOME forms the popular 'Millwood' design, offering a spacious, beautifully appointed / presented layout of accommodation which is 'ready to move into', including an EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM, plus a side driveway, GARAGE and rear garden with small patio and good sized lawn. EPC C

£249,950



WOODSETTON, Bosworth Close, 'The Poplars'

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Upon CORNER PLOT a stylish, double glazed, gas centrally heated DETACHED comprising; hall, cloakroom, living room, separate dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units, utility room. Principal bedroom with fitted units & shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom with white suite. Double (17'7 x 16'7) garage, professionally landscaped rear garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £249,950



QUARRY BANK, Dunns Bank

This THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED & EXTENDED, LINK-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Stylish Lounge, CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN, Dining Room, Guests Cloakroom, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Large Driveway, Garage & lovely Rear Garden. EPC E

£174,950



LOWER GORNAL, Mount Lane

A SPACIOUS, stylish, and significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached accommodation: hall, walk-in cloaks/store, through living room (with clearly defined lounge & dining room sections), brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, upgraded kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Wide garage with further store/work room beyond. Block paved driveway, neat rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £160,000



WOODSETTON, Brook Street

SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached. Envitably situated with lengthy front garden in a popular district the accommodation provides; porch, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Lawned driveway to brick garage, good sized garden beyond. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £152,000



BRIERLEY HILL, Henzel Croft

Encompassing an STUNNING CONTEMPORARY 'GLOSS STYLE' KITCHEN, This THREE BEDROOM HOME would make a FANTASTIC FIRST TIME BUY or FAMILY HOME. Also comprising: Hall, Stylish lounge, Guests W.C, Two Modern Bathrooms, Garage & Lovely Garden. EPC:B

£149,950



COSELEY, Jevon Street

SO CONVENIENT! - Within immediate walking distance of Roseville centre a highly individual, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed DETACHED with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation provides hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge (with double French doors out to garden), dining room, store, kitchen, Three bedrooms, bathroom. Substantial brick garage, sheltered garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

WAS £150,000, NOW £147,500



WOODSETTON, Parkes Lane

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage (sub-divided to form store & utility room with toilet off). Garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,950



LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

IMMEDIATE WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE!, a conscientiously maintained, significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached comprising; reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 17 ft living/dining room, upgraded kitchen, outer porch, Garage (utilised as additional living room). Three generous bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet. Block paved driveway, ample gardens. EPC. D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,000

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Brierley Hill
01384 265265

Sedgley
01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Envirably situated in cul-de-sac just off The Straits within walking distance of the village & backing on to country park at rear; a significantly improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed intermediate "family home" briefly comprising, hallway, spacious living/dining room, rear hallway with store, kitchen. Three generous bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite. Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woodland. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Fixed Price of £140,000



QUARRY BANK, Caledonia

This EXTENDED & ATTRACTIVELY DECORATED, THREE / FOUR BEDROOM HOME comprises: Hall, Modern Kitchen, Extended Lounge, Bedroom Four, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway, Pretty Garden, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING & GAS CENTRAL HEATING. EPC D

£139,950



PENSNETT, Broad Street

A VERY DECEPTIVE MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED enjoying a DRIVEWAY and GARAGE plus LARGE REAR GARDEN, a superb setting enhancing the SPACIOUS and RECENTLY REDECORATED layout, with THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. EPC D

New price

£139,950



QUARRY BANK, Ladywood Close

This SUBSTANTIAL and VERY WELL PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM HOME must be viewed to be fully appreciated and comprises; hall, well fitted kitchen, pleasant lounge, three large bedrooms, modern bathroom, driveway, garage, lovely rear garden. EPC E

New price

£134,950



GORNAL WOOD , Bank Road

WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE! A gas centrally heated, & upvc double glazed semi detached that has been completely redecorated and refreshed in recent months comprising: hall, cloak, kitchen, living/dining room. THREE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with a shower room en suite), bathroom. Parking.

garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £130,000



SEDGLEY, The Walk

LARGE EXTENSION AND TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! A gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and part upvc double glazed semi detached for improvement in popular/convenient district. With a range of changes it features the addition of a large side entrance, through lounge (with patio doors), kitchen, lobby, separate toilet, store, further living/occasional bedroom, with large shower/wet room ensuite. Three bedrooms, bathroom, drive, secluded rear garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £125,000



DUDLEY, Garrick Close, 'Earls Keep'

GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT - A RARE OPPORTUNITY a gas centrally heated and upvc double glazed ground floor apartment set upon well regraded development. Accommodation includes: central reception hall, two spacious bedrooms (principle bedroom with built in wardrobes and shower room en suite), lounge with bay, dining section with bay, kitchen, bathroom, extensive communal grounds/allocated parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £125,000



LOWER GORNAL, Boundary Hill

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, majority double glazed semi detached within walking distance of village & having block paved off road parking comprising: porch, hallway, cloakroom, 16 ft lounge and brick/upvc double glazed CONSERVATORY, extended/upgraded 17 ft kitchen; THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Wider than average garden, good distant views. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £118,000



Brierley Hill, Roach Close

This RATHER LOVELY SEMI-DETACHED HOME would make a PERFECT FIRST TIME BUY or ASTUTE BUY-TO-LET INVESTMENT and comprises: Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway and Secluded Rear Garden. EPC E

£115,000



BROCKMOOR / BRIERLEY HILL, Station Road

RATHER SURPRISING, VERSATILE DETACHED HOME with gas central heating and some double glazing: Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Hobbies Room, Utility, Guests Cloakroom, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom & Boarded Loft. Drive, Garden. NO CHAIN EPC F

£109,950



WORDSLY, Smalman Close

Situated within this stylish, new development, this BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED LUXURY SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT offers an excellent TWO BEDROOM contemporary styled layout with an EN-SUITE, plus allocated car parking and separate visitor parking. EPC B

£109,950



DUDLEY, Occupation Street

Well maintained end of terraced property which offers potential and is an ideal starter home. It is situated in the sought after area of Dudley and benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, through-lounge, kitchen, fitted shower room, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front and detached garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £107,950



QUARRY BANK, Osbourne Close

This THREE BEDROOM HOME is situated in close proximity to QUARRY BANK HIGH STREET and comprises: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom, Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC F

£99,950



PENSNETT, Blewitt Street

This TASTEFULLY DECORATED, EXTENDED AND IMPROVED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, IMPRESSIVE EXTENDED DINING KITCHEN, Guests Cloakroom, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, CARPORT and Pretty Rear Garden. EPC D.

£99,950



DUDLEY, Heath Green, Old Park Farm estate

A well presented family home situated in the popular Greens area of Dudley and benefiting from: part double glazing, gas central heating, porch, entrance hallway, living room, kitchen-diner, utility, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £92,950



PENSNETT, Colliers Fold

VERY WELL PRESENTED & MOST APPEALING BUNGALOW with a LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN and for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Also comprising: Porch, Sitting Room, Well Fitted Kitchen, GENEROUS BEDROOM, White Suite Bathroom, Off Road Parking. EPC D

£85,000



LOWER GORNAL, Orchard Grove

A well presented FIRST FLOOR FLAT part PVC double glazed, most conveniently situated within walking distance of the village and many other amenities. Accommodation provides reception hall (with extensive storage), lounge, kitchen, store, two double bedrooms, bathroom, allocated garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £75,000



Brierley Hill, John Street

This TWO BEDROOM, PERIOD STYLE HOME now requires MODERNISATION but has HUGE POTENTIAL to create a desirable FIRST TIME HOME. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN & comprising: Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garden. EPC D

New price

£74,950

Improvements blend well with original features



THIS traditional detached property in Spies Lane, Halesowen, combines modern improvements with original character.

It is for sale through Taylors at £299,995 with no chain.

It has a charming entrance hall with leaded and stained glass windows and original herringbone tiled flooring, two good reception rooms—the lounge having an attractive feature fireplace—and an extended kitchen with integral appliances, a ground floor WC.

There are three bedrooms (one en suite) and an attractive bathroom with a separate shower cubicle.

There is a large garage with electric doors and a landscaped rear garden.

Contact Taylors on 0121 5503978 or visit the website at www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



No chain for home with modern kitchen



THIS detached house in Wrekin Street, Woodsetton, is for sale through Wakeman Estates at £230,000 with no chain.

Its deceptively spacious accommodation includes a porch, entrance hall, a lounge with wood-effect flooring and a contemporary feature fireplace. There is also a dining room with wood-effect flooring and doors opening to the rear, plus a stunning kitchen with modern white units and slate-effect flooring.

There is a lobby, a WC, first floor landing, four bedrooms, a bathroom, a separate WC, garage, parking and gardens, gas central heating and double glazing.

It comes with ample off-street parking. For further information contact Wakeman Estates on 01902 885894 or visit www.wakeman-online.com



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NO UPWARD CHAIN
DOWNING HOUSE, CATHOLIC LANE, SLEDGLEY £349,950



NO UPWARD CHAIN
DOWNING HOUSE, CATHOLIC LANE, SLEDGLEY £349,950

• Modern detached house with four large bedrooms
• Situated in a sought after premier location
• Excellent family accommodation with two reception rooms
• Large breakfast kitchen/utility room, ensuite shower room
• SLEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



54 MOUNT ROAD

£179,950

LANESFIELD
• Traditional detached house
• Three bedrooms
• Improved & extended
• Deceptive accommodation
• SLEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



TIPTON

O/A £169,950

• Spacious family home
• Lots of character
• Attached self contained annexe
• Good sized private rear garden
• SLEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



NO UPWARD CHAIN
2A LANGLEY AVENUE O/A £119,950

COALEY
• Semi detached house
• Three bedrooms
• Extended kitchen
• Access to rear driveway
• SLEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING F



NO UPWARD CHAIN
33 KINGS ROAD, SLEDGLEY
• Considerably improved two bedroom mid terrace house
• Well fitted bathroom off bedroom two
• Ideal opportunity for first time buyers
• Well presented with gas central heating & double glazing
• SLEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



NEW
30 WREN STREET, WOODSETTON

O/A £230,000

• Well maintained detached family home
• Four bedroom spacious accommodation
• Well fitted kitchen and bathroom with separate shower cubicle
• Through lounge & separate dining room
• SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



NO UPWARD CHAIN
63 CINDER ROAD

O/A £149,950

GORNAL
• Semi detached house
• Three bedrooms
• Through lounge/dining room
• Cul de sac location
• Shower room
• SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



NEW
LAND FRONTING FIRS STREET

110,000

DUDLEY
• Development Site
• Subject to Local Authority consent
• Rectangular area of land
• Approximately 0.134 acres
• In need of cosmetic updating
• SEDGLEY OFFICE



NO UPWARD CHAIN
41 ROPER WAY

O/A £199,950

WOODSETTON
Detached house
• Three bedrooms
• Attractively presented
• Head of a cul de sac

• SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



NO UPWARD CHAIN
12 CHEVENING CLOSE O/A £189,950

SEDGLEY

• Modern detached bungalow
• Two bedrooms, shower room
• Enviable position at head of cul de sac
• Pleasantly landscaped gardens

• SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



NO UPWARD CHAIN
75 NORTHWAY

£184,950

SEDGLEY
• Link detached house
• Well maintained & presented
• Three bedrooms
• Private rear garden

• SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



NEW
13 GORGE ROAD, SLEDGLEY

£124,995

• Attractive two bedroom terraced house
• Two separate reception rooms, gas central heating
• Cosmetic updating needed but having excellent potential
• Convenient location within walking distance of Sedgley centre



NO UPWARD CHAIN

32 CROSS LANE

£104,950

SEDGLEY
• Semi detached house
• Three bedrooms
• Upvc double glazing
• In need of cosmetic updating
• SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING F



NO UPWARD CHAIN

13 TURL'S HILL ROAD

O/A £99,950

SEDGLEY
• Edwardian semi detached house
• Three bedrooms
• General updating & renovation works
• Two reception rooms, breakfast room
• SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING G



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DUDLEY

Attingham Drive,
A beautifully presented DETACHED
8 years old & 1 yr NHBC remaining
Convenient for amenities of Dudley
Close by to Dudley College
Accommodation over three storeys
FIVE bedrooms and THREE
bathrooms
EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £275,000



LOWER GORNAL

Reduced
Cedarswood Road.
A beautiful SPILT LEVEL BUNGALOW
Private spot in quiet cul-de-sac
Extensive gardens leading on 'The Dingle'
Flexible and spacious accommodation
Lounge-diner and sitting room
Kitchen with breakfast bar
Three DOUBLE bedrooms
Shower room and bathroom
VIEWING RECOMMENDED
EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £244,950



DUDLEY

Yarrow Close, Milling Bank
A DETACHED property
Milling Bank address
Lounge and dining room
Kitchen and utility room
FOUR bedrooms
En-suite & house bathroom
Garage and driveway
EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £250,500



COSELEY

Fairborough Way,
A BEAUTIFULLY presented detached
Quiet cul-de-sac location
Exceptional open plan design
Large Kitchen/breakfast/diner
Large 'L' shaped lounge
FIVE bedrooms
En-suite and bathroom
Garage and driveway
EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £284,500



ETTINGSHALL PARK

NEW
Canterbury Crescent,
A beautifully presented DETACHED
OPEN ASPECT VIEWS
Extended feature kitchen
Beautiful & extensive rear garden
Lounge and dining room
Garage and driveway parking
AN IDEAL FAMILY HOME
EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £284,500



SEDDLEY, SEDGLEY

Reduced
Viewfield Crescent,
A beautifully presented bungalow
OPEN ASPECT VIEWS
Large lounge with dining area
Two DOUBLE bedrooms
Bathroom with white suite
Upvc double glazed windows
Block paved drive
NO UPWARD CHAIN
EPC Rating - D
Offices invited

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £205,500



COSELEY

The Grange,
A DETACHED family home
Cul-de-sac location
Lounge & separate dining room
Good size breakfast kitchen
Four bedrooms
En-suite and integral garage
Well maintained rear garden
EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £184,950



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DUDLEY

Giltinan Street,
A traditional DETACHED home
Open plan lounge/kitchen room
Modern kitchen
Three good size bedrooms
An excellent size bathroom
Rear garden & garage
Off road parking for 2/3 cars
An ideal family home
EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,950



LOWER GORNAL

Reduced
Harcourt Drive,
A well-detached family home
Cul-de-sac central for Gornal and Dudley
THREE bedrooms
Extended kitchen to the rear
Lounge and dining room
Garage and driveway
IDEAL FAMILY HOME
Requires some updating
EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,950



DUDLEY

Bradfield Way,
A MODERN townhouse property
THREE bedrooms
Approximately 3/4 years old
Under NHBC guarantee
Contemporary breakfast kitchen
Well maintained rear garden
IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
Requires some updating
EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £159,950



COSELEY

Philip Street,
REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE
A modern style semi-detached
Open plan living & diner
Contemporary Kitchen
Downstairs WC and house bathroom
THREE BEDROOMS
Off road parking and garage
Private Rear Garden
NO UPWARD CHAIN
EPC Rating - C

£159,950



COSELEY

Mist Road,
A traditional semi-detached
THREE bedrooms
Upgraded and refurbished throughout
Lounge and Dining Room
New modern kitchen & bathroom
Utility room and shower room
NO UPWARD CHAIN
An ideal first time buy
EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £134,950



BILSTON

Harlyn Close,
A beautifully presented semi-detached
TWO bedrooms
Contemporary lounge and kitchen
Conservatory
Modern bathroom
TWO parking spaces
Well maintained rear garden
And ideal first time buy
EPC Rating - C

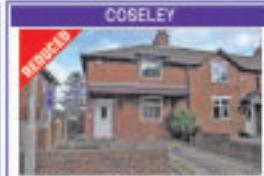
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £118,000



SEDDLEY

Cross Lane,
A SPACIOUS semi-detached
Convenient for Sedgley Centre
AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
Open plan dining kitchen
THREE good size bedrooms
Upvc double glazing
Off road parking
A pleasant rear garden
EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950



COSELEY

Reduced
Vicarage Road, Roseville Village
A well presented semi-detached
IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
Prestigious location in Roseville Village
Open plan kitchen/diner
TWO great size bedrooms
Pleasant rear garden
Driveway parking
Gas central heating and double glazing
NO UPWARD CHAIN
EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950



RIPLEY GROVE, UPPER GORNAL

Reduced
St. James Court,
A ground floor APARTMENT
Centrally located for Sedgley and Gornal
Only 5 years old (NHBC guaranteed)
Open plan modern lounge/kitchen
TWO double bedrooms
Contemporary bathroom
Tidy rear garden
One car parking space
Communal gardens
Secure entry system
Ideal first time buy
EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £84,950



COSELEY

Langley Avenue,
A well presented end of terrace
Ideal for a first time buyer
Open plan modern dining kitchen
TWO double bedrooms
Contemporary bathroom
Tidy rear garden
Off road parking to the front
approx 10 years old
EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £84,950



COSELEY

Etingshall Road,
A beautifully presented apartment
First floor accommodation
TWO bedrooms
Lounge opening to kitchen
approx 10 years old
EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £81,950



COSELEY

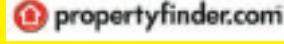
Reduced
Scorne Street,
A first floor flat OFFERED FOR SALE
Refreshed throughout
ONE bedroom
Lounge and separate kitchen
Contemporary bathroom
Secure gated entry
Communal parking area
Ideal investment opportunity
EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £74,950



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KINGSWINFORD
Halt Mews

NEW

A superb and well presented SEMI-DETACHED property on the highly demanded "Hilary View" modern development. This property has been much improved from the original specification having an entrance hall, guest WC, FITTED KITCHEN spacious lounge, two DOUBLE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, two bath rooms and a separate shower room. Having two large double doors to the front, viewing is highly recommended on this fantastic home! EPC - C £155,000



DUDLEY
Cardoness Place

NEW

TRINITY PROPERTY are pleased to offer for sale a well presented SEMI-DETACHED property on a corner plot in a popular location in Dudley. Having an entrance hall, guest WC, FITTED KITCHEN DINER with french doors to an attractive rear garden, THREE BEDROOMS, upstair family bathroom with white suite, block paved driveway to front and outbuildings with a WC. Viewing is HIGHLY recommended on this property to appreciate the interior and layout. EPC - Ordered £124,950



TIVIDALE
Tower Road

NEW

TRINITY PROPERTY are pleased to offer this SUPERB semi-detached property in a popular location. Having an enclosed porch, through hall, spacious lounge, FITTED KITCHEN DINER with French doors to a rear garden, THREE BEDROOMS, upstair family bathroom with white suite, block paved driveway to front and outbuildings with a WC. Viewing is HIGHLY recommended on this property to appreciate the interior and layout. EPC - Ordered £139,950



OAKHAM
Sunningdale Drive

NEW

This is an amazing detached bungalow on a corner plot in a cul-de-sac location in the highly sought after area of Oakham and with easy transport links to M5/M6 corridor and back country routes, local amenities, schools and shops. Briefly comprising of entrance hallway, lounge, conservatory, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens to the front and rear, garage and driveway. Early viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the accommodation on offer. EPC - E £250,000



KINGSWINFORD
Redruth Close

NEW

Located on the highly demanded "Chunter fields" estate with local shops, schools and transport links this deceptively spacious three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprises of entrance hall, open plan lounge, kitchen diner with appliances, two bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and a shared driveway. VIEWING COMES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC - Ordered £179,950



DUDLEY
Cardoness Place

NEW

Trinity Property are pleased to offer a semi detached property in a popular location in Dudley. Having an entrance hall, SPACIOUS OPEN PLAN LOUNGE, kitchen diner with appliances, two bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and a shared driveway. VIEWING COMES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC - Ordered £134,950



DUDLEY
Waterloo Street

NEW

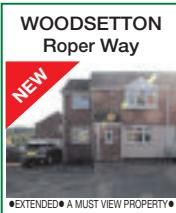
This three bedroom semi detached house is located within walking distance to Dudley town centre but also has local shops and amenities, excellent transport links and local schools. The property briefly comprises of hall, large lounge, dining kitchen, separate shower room and toilet, garden to the side and rear, driveway and garage. Although the property is in need of some modernisation it is highly recommended to view as an urgency to appreciate the accommodation on offer. EPC - Ordered £94,950



GORNAL
Goodrich Mews

NEW

A very well presented and well planned corner-turner style property having a spacious entrance hall, guest WC, lounge, KITCHEN DINER with fitted appliances, first floor landing, master bedroom with ensuite, two further bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and a garage. VIEWING IS A MUST! EPC - B £147,500



WOODSETTON
Roper Way

NEW

• EXTENDED • A MUST VIEW PROPERTY • SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION • Situated in a cul-de-sac location this modern three bedroom property is much bigger than it looks. Extended end of terrace property briefly comprises of; entrance hall, lounge, large dining room, modern fitted kitchen, conservatory, family bathroom, low maintenance rear garden and driveway to the front. EPC - D £142,950

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DUDLEY
Buffery Road

NEW PRICE



DUDLEY
Ashenhurst Road

NEW PRICE



NETHERTON
Molyneux Road

NEW



TIPTON
Bayleys Lane

NEW



GORNAL
Haslingden Crescent

NEW

Trinity property is pleased to offer for sale a spacious mid-terraced property located in a popular area of Tipton in the West Midlands. Having an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, garage and a rear garden. Suitable for first time buyers, viewing is highly recommended. EPC - C £119,950

A well presented and refurbished end terraced property having an entrance hall, guest WC, lounge, inner hall, guest WC, WC, lounge, spacious kitchen, lobby, first floor landing, four bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens. EPC - C £89,950

A well presented and improved semi detached property having an open plan lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, dining room, two double bedrooms, family bathroom with white suite, front and rear gardens and off road parking. This property must be viewed! EPC - Ordered £89,950

TRINITY PROPERTY is pleased to offer this well presented and SPACIOUS semi-detached property having an enclosed porch, entrance hall, guest wc with white suite, lounge, dining room, FITTED KITCHEN, wooden constructed conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS, shower room, block paved front and rear gardens and a GARAGE. Suitably let, viewing comes recommended on this property which is suitable for FIRST TIME BUYERS as well as investors. EPC - Ordered £110,000

A traditional style semi-detached house having an enclosed porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, upstairs family bathroom, front side and rear gardens and out buildings. EPC - F £105,000

£104,950

£165,000



DUDLEY
Clearwell Gardens

S.S.T.C.



SEDGLEY
Viewfield Crescent

S.S.T.C.



DUDLEY
Attingham Drive

S.S.T.C.



UPPER GORNAL
Tenacre Lane

S.S.T.C.



DUDLEY
Himley Road

S.S.T.C.



ETTINGSHALL PARK
Farrington Way

S.S.T.C.



RUSSELLS HALL
Maitland Road

S.S.T.C.

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£130,000

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REQUIRED**

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SIMILAR
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**SOLD!
SIMILAR
PROPERTIES
REQUIRED**

£99,950



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Osprey Drive

LET



DUDLEY
Wolverhampton

LET



Dudley
Ednam Road

TO LET



DUDLEY
Attingham Drive

LET



DUDLEY
Malvern Crescent

LET



DUDLEY
Ash Green

LET

A three bed semi detached house with double glazing and central heating, with two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room with downstairs WC over, family bathroom. Off Road Parking. Garden to rear. No Dss. No pets. EPC D £550 PCM & Fees

E370 PCM & Fees

E395 PCM & Fees

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£500 PCM & Fees

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£550 PCM & Fees

£550 PCM & Fees

Giving rivals run for money

By John Griffiths

Kadjar . . . it's an unusual name which will make you think. And that's good for Renault because its new model is certainly worth a second look.

For the Kadjar is big brother to the Captur, Renault's first crossover which in three years has become Europe's best-seller in the highly competitive b-segment SUV market.

The new car is based on the larger Megane platform, as is its close relation the popular Nissan Qashai which ironically will be one of its main rivals.

It has chunky yet aerodynamic styling, the interior space and practicality of an estate car and, on top specification models the option of all-wheel drive. Plus it has that high, 'command' driving position which is one reason SUVs now account for 27 per cent of all sales for this size of family car.

While beauty is in the eye of the beholder, the new Kadjar has curvy, contemporary styling with its origins unmistakable.

It's also roomy, with space for five adults (including six-footers in the back) plus one of the biggest cargo boots in its class.

But it's clear Renault, as something of a late-comer to the market, is once again out to capture sales from rivals such as the Qashqai and Kuga as prices are very competitive.

There are 18 versions costing from £17,995 to £21,695 which, like for like model is up to £2,000 less than its rivals, and along with a thrifty range of engines will also impact on tax bills for company drivers.

When you first get behind the wheel of a Kadjar it conveys the feeling that this is a big car, and a well equipped one too (starting with the ultra clear virtual instrument display).

The seats (back as well as front) are soft and sculpted, while the high seating position and large areas of glass – including a 'third row' window in the c-pillar – offer outstanding visibility. Within seconds, you feel this is a nice place to be: it is a 'feel good' car.

There are two diesel options, a 1.6 litre 130Ps version which packs plenty of punch and a 1.5 litre which still performs well on the road but is more economical, capable according to official figures of averaging 74.3mpg with either six-speed manual or automatic gearboxes, with a tax-busting 99g/km of CO2 emissions. The 130Ps engine has an advantage for acceleration and overtaking but, on two-wheel drive models, still results in an average 65.7mpg and a low 113g/km of CO2.

You do soon appreciate the hefty 320Nm of torque at a low 1,750rpm, which means the 130Ps-equipped Kadjar pulls strongly in every gear for relaxed but satisfying driving.

Balanced against its greater economy, the lower-powered 1.5 litre diesel loses out a little on acceleration, but it still does 0 to 62 in under 12 seconds. Perhaps more relevant to most drivers, it cruises at motorway speeds with a quiet and relaxed demeanour.

If you want the four wheel drive option, this is only available with the higher specification versions and the 130Ps diesel.

There is a three-position selector button – 'auto' for slippery roads when the electronics split the torque between front and rear axles according to conditions, 'lock' which puts the system in full-time four wheel drive if you venture off-road and the third option of front wheel drive only, to save fuel in normal road driving.

The petrol option sounds tiny for a car of this class – just 1.2 litres – but it is Renault's already proven turbocharged power plant. It's been revamped to produce a faster pick-up and response, and with 130PS matches the typical two-litre, normally aspirated petrol engine of just a few years ago.

While the Kadjar is relatively tall, with the



advantages of visibility and ease of access, suspension and steering are tuned primarily for road use which make it feel as nimble as a typical saloon or estate rival.

There's no sense that this is an SUV with harsh, long travel suspension, and the electric power steering is progressively weighted so you can turn in with confidence and precision, and without any anticipation of unsettling body roll. The power steering and big wheel arches allow a tight turning circle of well under 11 metres, which combined with the all-round visibility make the Kadjar easy to handle around town.

The car has already been awarded a maximum five stars for safety, and comes with a range of features from six airbags to stability, traction and understeer control systems, hill start assist, ABS and emergency brake assist..

As you go up the range and price ladder, other features such as parking sensors, lane departure warning and automatic parking assist systems are available,

Inside, the Kadjar's virtual instrument display are a model of clarity, with all models getting a seven-inch touchscreen display for audio, communications and other functions including navigation, where fitted.

The 190mm ride height does allow four wheel drive Kadjars to venture off hard-surfaces, and 4x4 models also get front and rear skid plates to protect the bodywork.

After its success in the marketplace for smaller crossovers, Renault has plenty of reasons to be confident that Kadjar can do the same against established rivals in what is, to them, a new sector.

A modern, trendy-looking and roomy car

with all the attributes that attract such a large number of drivers to the SUV sector is a good place to start, to say nothing of engines offering a good balance of performance and economy. And, of course, that competitive price tag which will have some rivals nervously biting their nails.

And Kadjar? Well, after over a century of car making it must be a) tough to find a name no one else has used and b) in a global market one which doesn't translate into something terribly embarrassing in another language (yes, we all know one or two of those).

So the official explanation is 'kad' is inspired by quad (something driven by four wheels or legs) and 'jar' from the French word jaillir which means to emerge quickly.

Hence a word for an agile four wheel drive vehicle . . .

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26,000 MILES RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM 3 door	£6495

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HISTORY IS LIKE**



Discoing across France

By Ian Donaldson

Make a mental list of the ideal car for a couple of weeks – and nearly 2,000 miles – of motoring through France and you would probably not put a Land Rover Discovery at the top.

Too big, too thirsty and not much fun to drive might be your leading demerits as you mentally pencilled in something much smaller and more sensible.

Well, I would have done precisely the same before clambering up (and it is a bit of climb) into the Discovery's cockpit. But I would have been wrong in the most pleasantly surprising of ways...

For starters, it's not too big. A tape measure shows the Disco looks bigger than it is. For instance, a Vauxhall Insignia Tourer estate is longer than this solidly built off-roader and only a couple of inches less wide.

And the Disco comes with a couple of advantages that other 4x4s tend to share and which makes owners love them for their surprising everyday practicality.



Building them tall and square makes them easier to steer a path through both urban jungle and the real thing, should you go off-roading in deepest Borneo. Not that, at £59,970 for this priciest version, you'd ever want to.

Then, thanks to an optional £740 pack on the test car, a clever tweak with a couple of tiny cameras made things easier still. They show where the front wheels are in relation to the kerb, so approaching a French autoroute toll booth on the 'wrong side' was a simple matter of keeping an eye on the dashboard screen.

Bright sunlight sometimes blotted out the image but mostly it worked well and saved potential contact between the Discovery's handsome (and expensive) 20ins alloy wheels and hard bits of roadside France.

So, the car did not feel too big. Certainly not too big for all the luggage two people need (apparently) for a couple of weeks in France, which almost filled the huge boot but left enough space for a stop at Calais for – you've guessed – a box or two of wine.

Not too big to fit comfortably into the giant hold of P&O's Spirit of Britain which took us across the Channel and back and made the journey feel like a proper holiday.

Then, to the thirst of the engine which has to pull one of the heaviest cars you can buy. The Discovery's immense off-road strength is down in part to a chassis built like a tank and the whole caboodle weighs an immense 2570kgs – or more than two-and-a-half times the weight of a Ford Fiesta.

That means the 3.0 litre diesel has to work for a living, which made the 31.6mpg recorded over more than 1,900 miles of holiday travel look the right side of reasonable. Factor in the cheapness of diesel in France, at about 82p a litre and the Discovery was hit-



'Two weeks after stepping up into the Discovery I was sad to see it go – here is a car that genuinely exceeded my expectations by a country mile.'

ting a UK wallet at the equivalent of about 43 miles to the gallon. Result, I'd say.

The engine also contributes to the easy-going nature of the car, slurring smoothly through the eight-speed automatic gearbox and providing the sort of mid-range pull that could easily surprise a dawdling Frenchman (and did, once or twice).

Riding high and carrying all that weight is no recipe for grand prix-style road manners but the Discovery made mincemeat of the deliciously empty and smoothly surfaced highways of France – and side roads almost comically good to explore in com-

parison to poor pockmarked, overloaded Britain.

Two more aids to stress free jaunts abroad are found by digging gently into the dashboard display where, with a few clicks of the button on the steering wheel, the digital speed display switches to kilometres an hour and the headlights set themselves to dip on the 'French' side of the road.

Two weeks after first stepping up into the Discovery I was sad to see it go – here is a car that genuinely exceeded my expectations by a country mile – or a French kilometre.

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Vitara range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) and for the Suzuki Celerio range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 42.1-61.4 (6.7-4.6), Extra Urban 55.4-76.3 (5.1-3.7), Combined 49.5-70.6 (5.7-4.0), CO₂ emissions 131-106 g/km and for the Suzuki Celerio range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 55.3-68.9 (5.3-4.1), Extra Urban 76.3-83.0 (3.7-3.4), Combined 65.7-78.4 (4.3-3.6), CO₂ emissions 99-84 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October 2015 to 31st December 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Model(s) shown. *Celerio 1.0 S24 available at £6,999 on the road (Metallic paint available at £415). Celerio 1.0 S27 Petrol Manual available at £6,999 to Celerio 1.0 S24 Petrol AGS available at £9,799. Vitara 1.6 S25 2WD Manual with Urban Pack available at £19,169 on the road. (Single-tone metallic paint available at £415, dual-tone paint is available at £800). Vitara 1.6 S24 Petrol manual available at £13,999 to Vitara 1.6 DDiS S25 ALLGRIP Manual with Rugged Pack available at £22,549.

Bike can cover continents

By John Griffiths

Adventure bikes are very much model of the moment (or perhaps even the decade) as more and more riders opt for this type of machine – and manufacturers chase sales by creating more and more choice.

We can all speculate on the reasons. There was Ewan McGregor and Charlie Boorman's round the world trip, or (visit any bikers' cafe) and it seems the 'average' biker is, erm, more mature these days and appreciates comfort rather than ultimate performance.

Adventure bikes are almost universally taller than the average bike, offering excellent views and comfortable, upright riding positions on large, soft seats.

There's the extra ground clearance, too, for off-road capability although I'm not sure how many riders actually tackle anything like Boorman and McGregor's 'Road of Bones.'

Honda's stable currently holds five adventure machines, from a 250 to a 1200, and there's a sixth, an all-new, more powerful Africa twin on the way.

The flagship is the £12,399 Crosstourer which can truly be described as unique: it's the only adventure bike with V4 power with arguably the most sophisticated motorcycle gearbox on the market – a six speed, dual clutch auto similar to that made popular by a German car brand.

Both, in their way, contribute to the sort of relaxed riding experience you'd expect of an adventure bike crossed with a tourer and intended for long distances rather than a blast to the local cafe.

The Crosstourer is based on the VFR1200, albeit with longer travel suspension, larger wheels and dual purpose tyres typical of the adventure breed. The engine is also retuned, producing less overall power (still a more than adequate 127bhp) but more torque at lower engine speeds (126Nm at 6,500rpm). Indeed, the sheer muscle available at low engine speeds is a notable characteristic of this bike – it's impressively responsive from the moment you open

the throttle but the power delivery is smooth and progressive.

I didn't get a chance to try it, but it does convey the feeling that the addition of a pillion passenger and luggage just wouldn't phase the Crosstourer at all. Well, that is what it's built for.

I've used Honda's germ of a gearbox before, on smaller bikes, but it really does suit this V4 behemoth very well indeed. You have two settings – drive, which is designed for economy and the more responsive 'sport' mode. The latter is better suited to the twisty bits, as closing the throttle will cause downchanges as you set up for a corner.

Or you can use the up/down buttons on the left grip with thumb or finger to select gears manually. The changes are very smooth indeed, and the system is actually quicker than most riders could achieve with a conventional clutch and toe lever. One of the benefits of shaft drive means no chain 'snatch' either.

Convert

To a traditional biker it seems almost counter-intuitive to rely on an auto (remembering those CVT scooters of our past) but this is a very different kettle of fish. Having now ridden bikes of greatly varying performance with this system, I am very much a convert.

Switchable traction control and Honda's combined braking system with ABS are there to enhance stability under acceleration and braking, even on poor road surfaces.

The Crosstourer is undoubtedly a big bike: I confess its seat height of 850mm put it on the edge of rideability for a 5ft 10ins pilot like me.

At 275kg it's not lightweight, either, but once on the move, even at crawling pace, it doesn't really make itself known. Indeed, this Honda is perhaps one of the most well-balanced and stable bikes to ride at low speeds in traffic, particularly for filtering.

You wouldn't expect a machine so tall and heavy to handle with the flickability of a sports bike, but it requires little physical effort to sweep majestically through the bends without feeling top-heavy.

The instruments include digital speedo and tachometer plus (pretty important for an auto) a gear indicator and a comprehensive trip meter. Based on its readout I averaged



between 43 and 44mpg with the Crosstourer, which means a reasonable range with its 21.5 litre fuel tank.

You sit tall and with a straight back between the wide bars, and on a particularly soft and well-padded seat. The standard screen (a taller option is available) together with the bikini fairing offers plenty of protection from the elements, and handguards are standard.

The pillion passenger gets a nicely proportioned seat, too, along with grab handles and a luggage rack is also fitted as standard. A range of luggage is on the options list. The Crosstourer is one of a kind, and it's a bike designed

to 'go the distance'. Whether or not users venture off-road (I would imagine its weight would make it a bit of a handful for many on rough ground) it is a consummate touring machine which offers a different experience to the VFR1200 on which it is based.

Everything about it, from the extra mid-range grunt of the fuel-injected V4 and that superb auto transmission to the excellent riding position, make it the sort of bike to just eat up the miles on motorways or mountain roads. It's about real-world performance combined with long-distance comfort for the sort of bike to cover continents.

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2013/13 VAUXHALL CORSA S 1.0 ECOFLEX 3 door, White, 4,969 miles.....	£6995

CARS OF THE WEEK



2013/62 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4T SE 5 door 4x4, White, Sat Nav, Full Leather, 13,000 miles

£14,750

2013/13 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6 VXR 3 door, White, 8,600 miles

£12,495

2013/13 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ENERGY A/C 3 door, White, 9,306 miles.....	£6995
2010/60 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION 3 door, White, 58,941 miles.....	£6995
2013/13 VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 3 door, Red, 47,000 miles.....	£7250
2012/12 VAUXHALL CORSA SE 1.2 3 door, Silver, 19,567 miles.....	£7250
2012/12 VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE 1.2 A/C 5 door, Red, 13,000 miles.....	£7250
2013/13 VAUXHALL CORSA HAT 1.2 VVT ENERGY A/C 3 door, White, 8,000 miles.....	£7250
2012/12 VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE 1.2 5 door, Green, 17,891 miles.....	£7250
2012/12 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI AC 5 door, Green, 16,080 miles.....	£7495
2013/63 VAUXHALL CORSA ENERGY 1.2 A/C 3 door, Red, 14,153 miles.....	£7495
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2014/64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 S A/C ECOFLEX 3 door, Grey, 10,439 miles.....	£7495
2012/12 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION 3 door, White, 20,195 miles.....	£7995
2014/64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 EXCITE A/C 70PS 5 door Hatchback, Silver, 2,508 miles.....	£8250
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Vauxhall Insignia Selection

2009/09 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 EXCLUSIV 5 door, Alloys, Silver, 53,000 miles.....	£5750
2009/09 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 SRI CDTI 16V Black, Black, 63,941 miles.....	£6495
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2014/14 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI 130PS TECH LINE 5 door Hatchback, White, 17,645 miles.....	£13,995
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2013/13 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 CDTI EXCLUSIVE TOURER AUTO, Silver, 15,010 miles.....	SOLD
2014/64 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 CD EXCLUSIVE TOURER, White, 11,507 miles.....	£14,650

Other Makes

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I dislike being asked for personal recommendations on what cars friends should buy. Most of the time you ask them for a 'wish' list to assess what you believe would be the ideal, or near ideal, package to suit their needs and there's usually something that they don't like with the cars you suggest. "What?" is the exclaimed response, "I could never drive that." And the reason is usually down to the badge on the bonnet. Not what you get for the money.

And that badge on the bonnet is usually down to the price they are prepared to pay. Yes, they could have a more prestigious car if they were prepared or could afford to pay several thousand pounds more. But in all likelihood they wouldn't necessarily get a better vehicle, they would merely massage their own snobbery.

The one exception to all this is in the executive or performance car brackets. In both you have to fork out to get what you want.

However on rare occasions friends have reacted far more favourably if I have suggested, say a Kia, Skoda or Suzuki. And if they have actually got behind the wheel to test one out they have usually bought. So it was with three friends who tried out Hyundai and were totally won over. One is even on her third car.

There's a choice of four trim levels – S, SE, Nav (Business and Premium) – with three engines available that benefit from Hyundai's efficient Blue Drive technologies – a 1.7-litre diesel with an output of 115PS with six speed manual transmission, a 1.7-litre diesel with an output of 141PS and six speed transmission and a 1.7-litre diesel engine delivering up to 141PS with seven speed DCT.

Features

This year's upgrade also includes refreshed styling with a new front grille and front bumper with reshaped front and rear lights, new transmission, improved ride and handling and a number of new safety and convenience features.

Prices start at £19,600 for the entry level S trim on the i40 saloon, which includes standard features such as 16in alloy wheels, Bluetooth connectivity, air conditioning, leather-wrapped steering wheel, automatic headlights with dusk sensor and steering wheel audio with telephone controls.

The SE Nav trim level is new and includes standard fitment of Hyundai's capable touchscreen satellite navigation system. Priced from £21,600, the SE Nav adds to the S model's specification with DAB radio, auto-dimming rear-view mirror, climate control with auto defog, heated front seats, LED front fog lights and a seven-speaker sounds system. This trim level can be enhanced further in the SE Nav Business model, from £23,100, with keyless smart entry with start/stop button and driver's seat memory function.

The range-topping Premium models, start at £25,600, feature 18in alloy wheels, panoramic sunroof with electric tilt and slide, luggage net, super vision instrument cluster with LCD colour display and lane departure warning.

As standard, all i40s get seven airbags, electronic brake-force distribution, an electronic stability programme, hill start assist and a tyre pressure monitoring system, while a lane departure warning system with lane keep assist comes with Premium trim. The i40 performed well in the Euro NCAP crash safety tests, getting a maximum five-star rating.

I spent a week in the SL SE Nav 1.7 CRDI 141PS saloon and covered just about every type of road from lanes to the rich man's motorway (the M6 toll road!) and filled it up with friends for a night out to see how it performed when loaded up.

My only adverse comment was the boot access and size but we all have to compromise from time to time.

Instrumentation was intuitive and didn't need you to reach for the instruction manual very often, plus it was a quality finish as were areas like the door finish, seat coverings and steering wheel.

What's not to like about a package that gives you all that for prices starting at less than £20,000?

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Motorhome adventure

By Paul Naylor

Earlier this year I enjoyed my first experience at the wheel of a motorhome. Never one to do things by half, I opted for a rather sizeable vehicle for a novice – the Swift Lifestyle 686.

Coach-built utilising the new generation Fiat Euro 5+ Chassis Cab, the 130bhp/2.3 litre engine provided plenty of pulling power for the close to seven metre in length motorhome.

I found the Lifestyle 686 surprisingly easy to manoeuvre. Its power steering is light and responsive and the gear ratios very similar to my own car, with the added bonus of a sixth gear.

There is a rear window, but if you do ever find yourself at the wheel of a motorhome, I can't recommend enough the brilliant optional extra that this model had.

A rear camera acts as the mirror. The image, super-imposed over the actual rear view mirror, provided a natural feeling of added safety.

There is of course, as you would expect these days, a reversing camera too.

The updated 2015 model comes with a host of additional features including running lights and a new smart construction with a strong, moisture proof PURe polyurethane timberless framed body shell.

A new fully integrated touch screen console has a great satellite navigation system as well as DAB radio, CD and MP3 player with bluetooth. The DAB aerial is concealed in the mirror.

Drivers will be delighted to hear that the captain's chairs have integrated headrest, wider backrest, better side support and improved seat comfort.

I was particularly taken by the aesthetics of the 686. Its new metallic black cab and colour coded bumper give it a sleeker appearance, easily distinguishing it from the passing 'white-van man'.

For added comfort, automatic cab air-conditioning is included and the tyre pressure monitoring system is sure to become a must have.

Add to the mix an external shower point – ideal for muddy boots – and barbecue point, for those wanting to eat out in style, and you have a fantastic vehicle ready for all occasions.

Contemporary

The Lifestyle 686 has a superb interior. Finished in tasteful biscuit and cream hues, when dressed in its daytime mode it is reminiscent of a contemporary static caravan.

To the front of the vehicle, situated just behind the cab, a kitchen area includes fridge with small freezer box, microwave, oven and hob.

Opposite is a dining area, ideal for four people. To the rear is the lounge, with ample space for the 686's maximum occupancy of six.

An additional table means you have dining options to the front and rear of the vehicle.

As you would imagine, storage space is cleverly integrated throughout, with nooks and crannies, plus under-seat compartments allowing you to take plenty of clothing on your adventures.

The bathroom is a good-size, with a moulded shower and vanity wash basin and chemical toilet adding to the comfort of any off-the-beaten-track stay.

And speaking of such things, the disposal of the chemical toilet waste – and indeed waste water from showering and washing the dishes – is both discreet and easily done.

My children were big fans of the awning.



'With so much to offer it truly is a great choice for families looking to hit the road.'

The winding mechanism and easy to construct legs gave the 686 added kudos, making it twice as wide on completion and way more versatile.

We found converting the 686 at night time easy too. If you need to sleep six there is space for two above the cabin and two further double beds can be converted from the dining area seats and lounge area.

Privacy can be added using a combination of blinds and curtains.

With so much to offer it truly is a great choice for families looking to hit the road for many a motorhome adventure.

The Swift Lifestyle 686 is available at dealerships throughout the UK now with a recommended on the road price of £47,584.

To discover more about leisure vehicles go along to the Motorhome & Caravan Show, at the NEC, October 13-18. Visit www.motorhomeandcaravanshow.co.uk



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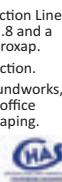
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Rangers leave Tivs behind in Trophy run

Stafford Rangers 3 Tividale 1
STAFFORD boss Neil Kitching was delighted with his side's performance against a Tividale side who posed some problems.

It was not all plain sailing for Rangers as Tividale equalised in the FA Trophy tie after conceding an early goal.

Kitching said: "Tividale are not a bad side; their league position might not suggest that, but I know they have good players and good management."

"So it was never going to be easy even being one up but I thought generally we dominated the game, played really well and particularly in the first half played some great football."

Rangers threatened to run away with the game early on, Neil Harvey heading in on 12 minutes with Tividale not really having been out of their own half.

But the visitors shocked them two minutes later when former Rangers forward Chris Sterling produced a neat finish after Mark Danks had played him in.

Rangers had most of the play in the rest of the first half but didn't regain the lead until the 49th minute when Peter Till's corner was not dealt with by the Tividale defence and Leon Miles scored from close range.

Tividale were not finished though and Sterling saw a shot well blocked by goalkeeper Adam Whitehouse, who also tipped over a Danks free-kick.

But it was game over on 75 minutes when Jake Jones, newly signed from Leamington, netted with a fierce shot.

Stafford host Lincoln United in the next round.

Tai on top of the world for second time

WOLVERHAMPTON speedway star Tai Woffinden clinched the World Championship for the second time in three years – and admitted he appreciates this one so much more than his maiden crown.

The 25-year-old became Britain's third multiple world speedway champion and the first in 53 years.

He could now go on to surpass the achievements of Freddie Williams (1950 and 1953) and Peter Craven (1955 and 1962) in 2016 by becoming the first Brit to win it three times.

"It feels great to get the reward after working so hard all year and it's definitely paid off," said Woffinden, who had an off night in Torun, Poland, on Saturday, but still sealed the points he required to clinch the championship with a round to spare."

Yeltz can't break the stalemate

Halesowen Town 0 Whitby Town 0

HALESOWEN recorded their first drawn game of the season after failing to find the net in what turned out to be a goal-less stalemate.

With Whitby more than happy to claim a rare away point and Halesowen lacking invention up front, a drab draw started to look inevitable from early on with the moribund game producing just a few half chances until the final 10 minutes but neither side could ultimately come up with the goods.

Halesowen's Isaac Cooper struck a 25 yard shot just inches over the bar in the 11th minute before home goalkeeper Dan Platt pushed away a 13th minute direct free-kick from Matthew Waters at

the base of his post. The evenly matched sides still lacked enough attacking ambition to break the deadlock after the interval.

The game proved bereft of entertainment until the 64th minute when Cooper crossed dangerously along the Whitby goal which was one of few opportunities for the shot-shy Yeltz.

The best chance of the game finally arrived in the 82nd minute when a direct free-kick from Whitby captain Mark Robinson was tipped over the bar by home goalkeeper Platt.

Whitby goalkeeper Shane Bland then pushed away a low shot from Cooper which was coming in at the foot of his post before beating away another Cooper

effort in the dying seconds of the of what was a disappointing and score less draw.

Halesowen Town: Platt; Connolly, Cooper, Denny (c), Hull, Elvins, Charlton, Bragoli, Reffell, Pearson (Griffiths 75), Hales (McGee 90).

Subs Not Used: Morrison, Gueyes, Sargeant (GK)

Whitby Town: Bland; Shepherd, Robinson (c), Bullock, Hassan, McTiernan, Martin, Gell, Roberts (Brobbel 77), Waters (Brown 69), Mason (Gardiner 87).

Subs Not Used: Charmey, Weledji.

Referee: Ian Smedley Attendance: 377

Letford douses the flames for Phoenix

Walsall Phoenix Ladies 0 Gornal Ladies Open Age 6

UNDEFEATED Gornal travel to Aldridge to face the tough Walsall side looking for the revenge after the mauling they received last times these two sides met Birmingham County Women's League Division 2.

Gornal got off to a very poor start, with poor passing and communication allowing the home side to have opportunities.

An early substitution and a slight change in play resulted in Gornal taking control and had several opportunities to score first.

A pass down the left flank by Gemma Moss-Hamill released winger Chelsea Fellows whose cross was met by Katie Moore on the edge of the six-yard box but the keeper covered well forcing her to screw her shot wide.

Rachel Letford then laid the ball off to Lauren Keen whose 20-yard effort went harmlessly over the bar.

Gornal pressure began to tell and Lauren Keen laid an inviting pass into the path of Letford who slotted calmly past the advancing keeper.

Five minutes later Gemma Moss from a throw in gave the ball to Letford who, with some nice footwork, volleyed it into the top corner and four minutes before half time a 25-yard shot from a free kick by Beth Arrowsmith was spilled by the keeper and Gemma Hamill Moss was first to react to bury it into the net.

Defending

In the second half Walsall had more chances but some fine defending by the impressive back four meant keeper Sam Brough wasn't required to make a save and this was the cornerstone which gave the Gornal Lionesses their fourth clean sheet in five games.

Letford was to be on the score sheet another three times, firstly with a downward header from an swinging Arrowsmith Corner.

Her fourth goal and Gornal's fifth was from great work down the left by Chelsea Fellows and Gornal saved the best for last which was an amazing team goal.

Gemma Hamill-Moss who provided a return pass to Moore to run onto passing into Keen to take the initial shot which was saved by the keeper only for Letford to follow up and score her fifth goal of the game.

Razor cuts a dash at club bash



Neil Ruddock with Lee Westwood the event organiser from Beacon Cricket Club

BEACON Cricket Club shared its end of season bash with Neil 'Razor' Ruddock.

The larger than life former England defender was the guest speaker at the club's annual sportsman's dinner at The Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill.

Ruddock entertained more than 250 guests with tales from an eventful career that saw him earn one cap for England and also

enjoy club stints with Liverpool and West Ham.

Off the field, Ruddock has also been a hit in reality shows including 'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out of Here' and 'Big Brother'.

Comedian Josh Daniels rounded the evening off with a top class performance as the club celebrated a year of progress on the pitch that saw them finish second in the Staffs Clubs Premier Di-

vision. Committee member Lee Westwood was the driving force behind the event.

Westwood has worked tirelessly to boost club funds since organising the club's first dinner six years ago when Ruddock was the star attraction.

"Razor was the guest for our first sportman's dinner six years ago." He is a lively character and a top bloke," said Westwood.

Good day for runners in villages challenge

IT was another red letter day for Dudley Kingswinford Running Club with Ben Foster taking first place in the inaugural Two Villages 10k race.

Over a testing course, starting and finishing at Enville Hall and taking in some testing climbs around Kinver, Foster was ahead by more than a minute at the finish coming in at 36.53.

Daniel Maskew of Wolverhampton & Bilston was second in 38.16 and West Bromwich Harriers Gurmali Dehl took third in 38.32. DK's Darren Bishop was fourth in 39.51 winning his age group.

Helen Tromans finished runner-up in the ladies race in a PB of 42.54 only 16 seconds behind the winner Victoria Wilkinson of Cheltenham & County Harriers with Louise Collins taking third in 44.26.

There were plenty of other DK on show with Graham Wildgoose taking 35th in 45.47, Rebecca Warren 48th and fifth lady in 47.34, John Andrews finishing in 50.36, Karen Doy in 51.44, Carol Fisher in 52.07, Lynn Sprague in 52.12, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker in 53.33, Andy Freeman and Traci Gaunt both came home in 1.00.15, Sally McConville in 1.03.34 and Debbie Richards in 1.04.54.

The autumn marathon season kicked into gear with athletes travelling to Chester for the classic distance. Matt Biggs finished 25th in 2.48.18, Lorna Hulme was 200 and 15th female in a PB of 3.13.11, Tahir Yasin finished in 4.02.55, Russell Fox in 4.09.04 and Andy Weaver in 4.09.51.

D Khad a representative in their novel metric Marathon, a 26.2k with Charlotte Tonks in 2.52.58.

Irvine is now free to find a new position

ALBION have reached a deal with Alan Irvine to terminate the former head coach's gardening leave.

Irvine, sacked last December by the Baggies, was still being paid monthly under the terms of his dismissal and as a result unable to seek employment elsewhere.

But after an approach by the club through the League Manager's Association, Irvine has accepted terms which will enable him to return to the game.

The Scot, who has been heavily linked with the vacant managerial position at Dundee United, said: "I'm delighted to have reached a settlement agreement with West Bromwich Albion and I'm now free to look for my next challenge." I really enjoyed my time being a manager with West Brom, just as at Preston and Sheffield Wednesday."

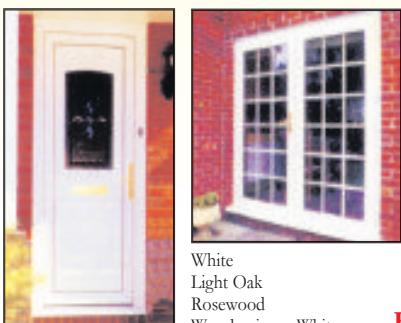
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Pulis wants the win from every clash

TONY PULIS insisted he is always totally committed to winning after footloose Albion fell to defeat at Crystal Palace.

Saturday's 2-0 loss at Selhurst Park was the Baggies' second reverse in five days and saw their head coach criticised for what were perceived as 'negative' tactics.

Albion failed to draw a save from home keeper Wayne Hennessey until stoppage time and Pulis was blasted by TV pundit and former Arsenal striker Ian Wright for his decision to take off Saido Berahino at half-time, with the game still goalless.

But the Baggies' head coach claims his intention is always to go for victory.

"As soon as the whistle goes I've always been totally committed to winning the game of football," said Pulis. "Whether it's being on the park as a boy or in school in the yard."

"A game of football is a game of football and you want to win it."

Berahino infamously threatened to go on strike after being denied a deadline day move to Tottenham and Wright, at Saturday's game for BT Sport, claimed he 'didn't blame' the striker if he wanted to leave.

Pulis, however, levelled the finger of blame for the performance at his players, claiming too many had let their levels drop and pointing out he had picked the same starting XI which had won impressively at Villa.

"If you watched us against Villa with the same team and the energy and enthusiasm we played with going forward and defensively it was just unbelievable," he said. "Like I said to them afterwards, the level of performance on Saturday compared to that is too big a drop for me."

Team D is hit with illness as Shifnal take them down

Shifnal Town 3 Team Dudley 0

TEAM Dudley came out second best against strong opposition when they went down 3-0 at Shifnal Town in West Midlands Division One.

They welcomed back captain James Hawthorne, but with illness spreading through the camp Jamahl Patterson pulled out in the warm-up.

Shifnal Town were keen to keep their promotion hopes alive with three points at home. Lee Clarke came back into the side, playing with illness and James Messenger had just shaken off a virus he'd been playing with. Shifnal came out firing, closing the visitors down at every opportunity and putting them under pressure. Dudley's best chance of the first 15 minutes was a counter-attack that saw Nathan Jones have an effort from 30 yards go wide.

The students held out for 30 minutes before Shifnal scored, Will Wells tapping in Sam Wilde's cross.

Toby Lumbar scored just after the break and the same player bagged his second goal when he ran on to collect Marc Lawrence's header.

Phoenix can't rise from Letford's ashes
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Razor cuts a dash at Beacon bash
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Albion finished before even starting



Palace's Wilfried Zaha and Albion's James Morrison

Crystal Palace 2 Albion 0

ALBION failed to register a serious shot on target until the game was already lost and when Palace finally did breach their defences through Yannick Bolasie, midway through the second half, it was merely justice for a performance of patience against an adventure-free opponent.

Pulis' post-match frustration bordered on anger, but it was an emotion shared with the 1,300 travelling supporters, many of whom awoke before dawn and travelled more than 100 miles to watch such an insipid display against a Palace team which, while talented, does not deserve tac-

Football

tics usually reserved for playing the likes of Barcelonam.

Once Albion were set-up to claim a point, they had to get it, for the end to justify the means. Once behind, they had no response, with players drilled to be cautious unable to break out of those shackles – the fact Pulis' men failed to register a shot in the 21 minutes between Bolasie's opener and Yohan Cabaye making the result certain from the penalty spot might be the most damning statistic of all.

Our season starts now, says Jackett

WOLVES' season starts here – that was the message from boss Kenny Jackett, who hailed the contributions of goalscorers Benik Afobe and Kevin McDonald.

A second successive 3-0 victory propelled Jackett's team into the Championship play-off picture, just a week after they were only three points off the bottom of the league.

And while not getting carried away with his team's form, Jackett expressed his delight at the victory over Huddersfield – and bemoaned the two-week break before their next fixture owing to the international break.

He said: "We've got seven points out of nine, there's the opportunity to do that in this league, and we're disappointed the international break has now come."

"The big thing is now our season is ahead of us and we have to keep building."

McDonald, who has withdrawn from the Scotland squad with a back injury, scored one and Afobe the other two as Wolves picked up their third clean sheet of the season.

The pair have both dealt with off-the-field distractions and been far from at their best this season, but played a crucial role in Saturday's victory.

Jackett added: "Maybe Afobe was distracted, it would be the case for any young player, it's tough, but he's been a big player for us and he's only been here since January. We think he has a very good future at 22 and he's really got his confidence at Wolves."

McDonald adding goals to a very good game. His concentration's been very good and he's a key player. With Coady getting suspended and Edwards getting injured it's opened up the partnership again for Price and McDonald."

Frankie forced to drop out of bout

FRANKIE GAVIN has pulled out of his title bout with Stourbridge's Sam Eggington – after a car ran over the Birmingham boxer's foot.

Gavin was struck after stepping off a kerb in Aston a fortnight ago but said the injury had not healed sufficiently to allow him to take part in the British and Commonwealth title fight at the Barclaycard Arena.

Gavin was targeted on social media by Eggington fans for pulling out, but hit back by tweeting: "I am injured and not gonna be myself, so can't risk it. Sorry." The show will go on, with Eggington to face a new opponent October 17.



Chris Van Straaten and Nigel Pearson looking to hand over the reins. Picture: John Hipkiss

of the green belt would be swallowed up. That seems to be the same old story for the nomadic club.

The club had also been exploring possibilities at a site near Merry Hill shopping centre, which also fell through.

Following the announcement this week, a meeting has been arranged with the interim board of the newly-formed Heathens Supporters Trust to discuss the situation.

Mr Pearson will also meet with officials at Dudley Council later this month to discuss a future home for the club he has supported for many years.

He added: "We have been going six years since we revived and it has been a wonderful time."

"We have given people a lot of pleasure."

"I do hope enough people care enough about this club and step forward and take the club forward and that this is not the end."

"We will offer all the help and support to anyone who comes forward and we will go to the meeting with the council regardless," added Mr Pearson.

"I will even be there at home matches to make sure it is a smooth handover. Hopefully this will not be the end."

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